WELBOURN

COUNTY LINCOLN

The STORY OF THE CHURCH AND ITS SURROUNDINGS, MEN AND THINGS.

Before 1086 to the present time.

“Nil, nisi bonum, de mortuis.”

By

M.F.H. PUCKRIDGE.

1937

(Transcribed Rosemary King 2022)

CC BY SA

Introduction.

In August 2021 my brother, David Close, living in the Old House, Welbourn, showed me a dusty, musty transcript of Miss Puckridge's writings entitled "The story of the Church and its surroundings, men and things." David explained that it was a photocopy of one of the carbon copies of the history of Welbourn Church that Miss Puckridge had researched. Her hand written account was laboriously typed up between 1933-1937. It is believed that the master copy was passed to the Lincoln Cathedral library but the number and location of the carbon copies is unknown.

I felt that it was important, not only that this historical document should not be lost, but also that some of the changes that had taken place in the ninety years since Miss Puckridges's account should also be recorded. I have therefore added this, using anecdotal information supplied by my brother Mr. David Close, a number of church records available to me, p[us many hours with my friend "Mr. Google". I have taken care to transcribe the carbon copy exactly as it was written in 1933. This includes the varied spellings of "Welbourn", which appears to have changed

through the ages along with other "odd" spellings. Where I have felt that it would be appropriate, I have added in comments and clarification (written in parenthesis and this script) but I have endevoured not to alter the text in anyway, even when Miss Puckridge strayed from her subject. That is part of the charm of her writing. There are varied spelling, some archaic, and again these have not been changed.

Little is known of Miss Muriel Frances Puckridge herself, other than she was the daughter of Jonathon Samuel Puckridge, born 1857-1935. He was born in Marylebone, Middlesex. Her mother was Elizabeth Helen Owen, born 1858-1920 in Rainhill, Lancs.
Muriel was born in 1890 in Castlemartin, Pembroke and died in Exeter in 1967. She was 77 years of age and never married. Her sister Vera Mary was born 1892 and her only brother Cyril Vere Noel was born 1895 also in Pembroke. Sadly Cyril was killed in the First World War on 21-22 July 1916. Her father, Jonathon Samuel Puckridge MA, was of course the rector of Welbourn from 1913 to 1933.

Rosemary King 2022.

(NB Rosemary King is the daughter of the late Esme and Hugh Close and sister of David Close, of the Old House, Welbourn. The Close family has long been associated with Welbourn Church since the grandparents, Thompson Close and his wife Alice Maud moved into the village in 1919. Alice Maud Close was one of the church organists for many years and her grandson, David Close, has been a a long term Church Warden.)

Foreword

This story of the church of WELBOURN from the earliest times to the present day, represents the result of the painstaking work, spread over a number of years, of one who was much attached to the place and its inhabitants.
The Reader must bear in mind that it is the story of the Church and does not profess to be the History of the parish, although it contains much information, as to the Manor and other lay matters.

Miss Puckridge, has shown throughout, her determination to give her authority for all her statements, which greatly adds to the value of the work.

W.V. R King-Fane
Fulbeck Hall

30th May 1938

PREFACE

I dedicate this book to my Father, who taught me what I know and inspired me to write.
It has not meant dealing with dusty, dry tomes and crabbed characters, as some would think, but with the records and handwriting of persons who really lived.
I have to thank the late Canon Foster. D litt. F.S.A. Colonel King-Fane and all the people who have helped with the records. Also Mrs. and the late Mr. James Dawson by whose kindness this book is typed.
Some of the local history is, of necessity according to the evidences and knowledge of the ancient inhabitants, and I thank them for their help freely given.

M.F.H. Puckridge.

Branston 1937

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Chapter 1

The Patronage of the Church of Welbourn.

Before 1086----------Robert Malet
1086-1538----------Eye Priory, Suffolk.
In 1334---------- The King.
1538----------Thomas Godsalve.
1545----------Robert and Roger Tavener.
1545----------Nicholas Bailye. Gent.
1573----------William Wilsonne. Gent.
1583----------Charles Hussey. Esquire.
1606----------Sir John Popham. Knight.
1641----------Sir Francis Popham. Knight.
1678----------Sir William Ellys. Knight.
1709----------Sir William Ellys. Baronet.
1727----------Sir Richard Ellis. Baronet.
1765----------Rt.Hon Francis Baron le Despenser
Before 1770----------Hon. George Hobart.
In 1770----------Arabella Herring. Widow.
1818----------Eleanor Agnes, Countess of Buckinghamshire.
1867----------George Frederick Samuel, Earl of Grey and Ripon.
1871----------Augustus Albert Smith. Esquire.
1908----------A.S. Leslie-Melville Esq & others.
1913----------Hyndman Trustees.
1933----------Hyndman Trustees..continues

“There is a Priest there and a church in 1086”. This is the entry in Domesday Book under the head of the Land of Robert Malet, Manor in Wellburne. (Earl) Godwin had 12 carucates of land (assessed) to the geld. There is land for 16 teams. Robert Malet has 3 teams in desmesne, and 35 soke men on 7 carucates of this land &12 villeins & 8 borders having 12

teams & 2 oxen. There is a Priest there and a Church to which belong 5 bovates land &1 mill rendering 2 shillings & 200 acres of meadow, & now worth 16 pound, tallage 40 shillings.

(Desmesne means where he lives. Soke means the right to hold a court. Carucates is an East Anglian term for an area of land. One unit equals 120 acres. A Villein was a feudal peasant who was legally tied to the lord of the manor. A bovate means OX and was a measure of land, which could be ploughed by one eighth of a plough. Equal to one eighth of a carucate. Tallage is taxation levied by the king on towns and lands of the Crown. Abolished in the 14th century.)

Robert Malet was the founder of Eye Priory in Suffolk. He was one of the barons who accompanied William the Conqueror upon his expedition to England. He was a great favourite of King William. He had about 260 manors in various counties. At the time of the Domesday Book he held 32 manors in Yorkshire, 3 in Nottinghamshire, 8 in Lincolnshire and 221 in Suffolk. Eye in Suffolk, being the head of his barony.
When he founded his monastery at Eye he endowed it with "the Church of Eye & its appurtenances, a portion of his burgage in this town and the tithe of the market of Eye. He also gave the Churches of Laxfeud, Seckebroc & Wellburne Churches with their chapels," also tithes in Seckebroc and Wellburne.
Robert Malet was the elder son of William Malet of Graville, Normandy and succeeded on his death in 1072. He became a great chamberlain under Henry 1 but deserting him in 1102, he forfeited his estates and was banished. He took part with Robert, the brother of Henry 1 and is said to have been killed at the battle of Tindherbrai in 1106.
The earliest institutions show that the rectory was divided into two medieties or halves, which no doubt belonged to the two Manors into which Wellburne became divided. The Manors

are, in 1334, called le Northall and le Southelle, but long before that the advowson *(patronage)* of the Church had become divorced from the Manors by Robert Malet's gift to the Priory. Before 1262 Eye presented to both the medieties, which became consolidated into one benefice in 1238, when Gilbert of Yaxley, who directly held one of the medieties, was instituted to the other.

In spite of Robert Malet's gift, the Church of Wellburne was never appropriated to the Priory of Eye. The Prior was content with receiving an annual pension charged upon the rectory. He held other pensions in Lincolnshire. Wellburne yielded him 4 marks or £2-13-4p. Therefore the Priors were not rectors of Wellburne, but were the patrons and right down the centuries until 1538, the Prior of Eye supplied Wellburne with its parish priest.
Eye Priory was at one time an alien Priory and so in 1334 it suffered the usual fate of alien Priories whenever a war broke out with France. The revenues were in consequence seized into the King's hands and he appointed the record of that turn.

Thomas Godsalve is the first name in the list of private patrons. When the Monasteries, in 1536, found themselves in danger of dissolution, they tried to save some of their patronage, by leaving it to their supporters. Thus Thomas Godsalve received a grant of the next presentation, which became operative in 1538. After the dissolution the patronage passed into private hands.

Roger and Robert Tavener became the next patrons by a royal grant. They were two of the three sons of Richard Tavener, who issued a new version of the Bible in English in 1539. Robert settled in Essex, as did Roger, who later became the MP for Launceston, Cornwall in 1554. He died in 1582. The brothers must have parted with the advowson of the Church of

Welbourne, as in 1545 the next presentation was made by Nicholas Bailey of Longlednam, gentleman. How the gift came into his hands is uncertain, but the family made four presentations in ten years. His son, George, was born at Welbourne in 1548 and Nicholas is described as "of Welbourne" in his will and on his memorial in the Church in 1634. George, his son became the next patron. He was also one of the first trustees of the trust of William Sparrow's will.

Who William Wilsonne, gentleman, was or how the advowson passed into the Hussey family does not appear. Charles Hussey, Esquire, presented Mr. Francis Trigge M.A. to the rectory of Welbourne in 1563. A certain John Hussey bought Honington in 1583 and he married or had already married, Francis Trigge's mother, Elizabeth, the widow of Thomas Trigge of Stamford. She died in 1591 and her husband, John, died in 1587 and is buried at Honington.

In 1692 Sir Edward Hussey a descendant of Sir Charles, together with his wife, Dame Elizabeth, bought Welbourne Manor and lived there until after 1720. He bought the house for £380 together with all crofts, tofts, *(site for a dwelling or outbuildings.)* yards, orchards and gardens thereto adjoining, in estimation three acres. Ann-Charlotte was baptized in 1699 and their three sons, Henry, Robert and Edward were baptized in 1703, 1704 and 1705. "Robert ye son of Sir Edward Hussey Bt. and Lady Elizabeth, his wife", baptized! One of his daughters, by his first wife Charlotte was married in Welbourne in 1714 to Thomas Pochin, Esquire, the patron of Caythorpe Church, who presented the rector there in 1744. Perhaps little Ann-Charlotte, her half-sister was a bridesmaid?

Their memorial is a large marble tablet on the wall of Caythorpe Church. The inscription reads

“Underneath Lyes the Body of Sir Edward Hussey of Welbourne Bt, son and heir of Sir Charles Hussey, of the 2nd branch of the Ancient and Noble family of the Hussies, a gentleman of great virtue, learning and integrity. Many years in Parliament with honour, as one of the Representatives of the City of Lincoln. He had by his first wife, Charlotte, only daughter of Daniel Brevint, D.D.Dean of Lincoln, eleven children, who all died unmarried except viz. Charlotte, late wife of Thomas Pochin, Esquire and Sarah, first the wife of Robert Cawdron (died 1728 aged 41) and now of Weston, John Smith Esquire. By his second wife Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Charles de Vic, Bt, he had three sons and one daughter (baptized at Welbourne.) Sir Edward died February 19th 1724 aged 65.
(NB. Dame has been struck out and Lady written above it.) Near this place lieth the body of the said Elizabeth, Lady Hussey. She died January 21st 1750 aged 78”

In 1606 Sir John Popham, Knight, Lord Chief Justice in 1592, presented Mr. John Stoneham. Sir John Popham “first settafotte the Plantations, eg Virginia, which he stockt & planted out of all the goales of England.”(Aubrey 1606) He procured patents for the London and Plymouth Company for the colonization of Virginia. He presided at the trial of Guy Fawkes and the other conspirators in the Gunpowder plot 1606. He died June 10th1607 and was buried at Wellington, Somerset.

Sir Francis Popham, his only son of Asgarby, Lincolnshire, presented Bartholomew Mitchell in 1641-2.

The advowson then passed into the hands of Sir William Ellys, Knight, a wealthy bachelor, who had a chequered but successful career, according to the writer of the “Notes for a History of Nocton,” at which place he was born, about 1603.

He matriculated at Christ's College, Cambridge 1623. B.A. in 1626-27 and called to the Bar in 1634. He was Recorder of Boston and MP 1640-53. Appointed Solicitor General 1654. Recorder and MP for Grantham 1656. Created a Baronet 1657. In 1671 he was made one of his Majesty's Sergeants at Law and a Knight. "In 1672, according to a list of resident gentry in Lincolnshire, William Ellys, Knight was living at Welbourne. On the 18th December of that year, he was appointed a "Judge of the Common Pleas." It is probable that it was in 1676 that he purchased the Nocton Estate. He was styled 'cousin' by Mr. Thomas Audley in 1642, and was executor to the will in 1649. He died a bachelor at his chambers in Sergeant's Inn, Fleet Street on 2nd December 1680, having appointed as rector, two years previously, his nephew, Robert Knight, son of his sister Dorothy and Isaac Knight of Lincoln. He left the greater part of his worldly goods to his great-nephew Sir William Ellys, Bt. who lived at Nocton. He was MP for Boston and Grantham and he died in 1727.

Sir Richard Ellys, his eldest son, succeeded to the title and estates and one of the first things that he did was to reaffirm his father's appointment of John Peckard to the rectory at Welbourn. He was MP for Boston 1714-27, but after his father's death he abandoned politics and collected fine libraries at Nocton and at his townhouse in Bolton Street, Piccadilly. He was a man of strong religious opinions and a distinguished theological writer. He was a member of the Gentleman's Society of Spalding. He died in February 1741 and is buried at Nocton.

He left £50 to the poor of Nocton and his estates in Lincolnshire and Leicestershire, that were worth about £4,000 p.a., to his wife for life; the remainder to his second cousin, Lord Hobart and his male heirs. His widow Sarah, sent off his theological and antiquarian books to Lord Hobart at Blickling Hall in Norfolk.

She married for her second husband, Sir Francis Dashwood, sometime before 1751 and in 1765 he appointed William Wroughton to the vacant living of Welbourn. It was he who erected the land-light-house on the heath, named Dunston Pillar…92ft in height. This was because he had heard of a man being murdered and that poor folk lost their way at night, dying from exposure to cold and snow. The inscription on the pillar included the name of Francis Dashwood, 1751. Although now roads, in the lifetime of some, have been made and the highwaymen, gentlemen of the roads, have vanished, still the Pillar remains as a Memorial to his thoughtfulness. In 1810 the Earl of Buckingham replaced the lantern, which had been damaged in a storm, with a colossal statue of King George 111, to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of his reign. The Lincoln Heath Yeomanry wore as a badge on their helmets, a brass representation of the Pillar surrounded by the statue of the King. During the erection of the statue, the stonemason, John Wilson fell to his death. He was buried in the Harmston Churchyard.

(In 1940 during World War 11, the statue was removed and the tower was reduced in height by one third to reduce the danger to low flying aircraft, from Coleby Heath and Waddington Airfields. The statue of King George 111 was damaged during the dismantling and the shattered remains are stored at Lincoln Castle. Only the bust of the King is on display in the castle grounds.)

The drainage of the fenland was begun about this time and Lady Sarah Dashwood contributed £21 to the scheme. In 1762 Sir Francis Dashwood became Chancellor of the Exchequer and he founded a notorious club (the order of the Friars of St Francis, also known as the Hellfire Club!) In 1763 he succeeded his uncle as Lord le Despencer. Not long afterwards he and Lady Dashwood seem to have retired to his seat in

West Wycombe, Bucks and to have allowed George Hobart to take possession of his inheritance.

The Hobarts were entertaining on a grand scale in December 1767. George Hobart was born in September 1731 and he married in 1767. He succeeded his half brother as Earl of Buckinghamshire in 1793. Great schemes were on foot for Land Improvement soon after he came to Nocton and the upkeep of the estate needed money. For that or for some other cause, he sold the next presentation to the rectory of Welbourn in 1770. He died in 1804 and did not present.

His son, the 4th Earl of Buckinghamshire died in 1816, having married for his second wife, Eleanor Agnes, second daughter of William, Lord Auckland. She lived until 1851 aged 74 and presented in her own right, first Augustus Edward Hobart, her husband's nephew and later Mr. Disbrowe. It was she who built the Welbourn Church Day School.
Mr. Hobart held the incumbency of Benington in Holland, Lincs, at that time, but he lived at Welbourn.

Since 1696 the patronage of these two rectories had been the same. William Ellys, Bt, put Mr. John Haynes into Benington in 1696, while Robert Knight, who had been there previously, was at Welbourn. Earl de Grey and Ripon in 1869 presented Henry Sharp Disbrowe of Welbourn, to Benington.
The Hon. George Hobart, as has been mentioned, sold the next presentation in 1770 for £1,260 and it was to a lady, who forthwith gave the living to her daughter's husband, the Rev. John Ridghill of Newark. Mrs. Arabella Herring was the widow of Mr. Richard Herring of Newark, (died 1741 aged 27) and daughter of the Rev. Edward Saul of Harlaxton, near Grantham. He and her mother, also an Arabella and her grandmother, a Mrs. Cassandra Beaumont are buried at Harlaxton. Arabella had married Mr. John Ridghill to whom

she presented Welbourn in 1770. Mrs. John Ridghill died in 1806, one year after her mother, Arabella Herring who had lived to be 90.
In 1818, with the passing of Arabella, the advowson passed to Eleanor Agnes, Countess of Buckinghamshire as has been stated. Upon her death the property passed by descent to George Frederick Samuel, Marquis of Ripon, who upon the death of Earl de Grey in 1871 became Earl de Grey and Earl of Ripon.

Augustus Albert Smith, Esq. of Northwood house, Upper Norwood, Surrey, in 1871 bought from him all the Manor, or reputed Manor of Welbourn cum Sapperton and the advowson of the rectory, divers farms etc, all rights of way, water etc for the sum of £133,425-16-0. The right as to the advowson to be held subject to the life interest of the Rev. Frederick Abel Leslie-Melville, the then rector.

From Mr. A.A. Smith, above, it passed into the family of Leslie-Melville, who appointing the Rev. W.H.M. Hancock in 1908 gave the advowson to Miss Hyndman's Bounty Trust, who appointed the Rev. J.S. Puckridge in 1913. Followed by the Rev. J.T. Paddison in 1933.

Chapter 11

Rectors of Welbourn

Mediety of the Rectory	Instituted
E de Melles	before 1219
Master Warin de Muncy	1219
Achard	before 1229
John de Willingham, Chaplain	1229
Gilbert de Jakel (ie Yaxley)	1231
Gilbert de Jakel, Subdeacon, to a Mediety, which has been consolidated with the other mediety.	1238

The Rectory

Rectors	Instituted	Vacated
Bartholomew	-1262	Died
Philip of Eye	1262-	
Richard de Havingham	-1282	Died
Master Richard Nogent, (subdeacon)	1282-1312	Died
Alexander of St Albans (Resigned on Exchange)	1312-1332	R o E
Master Peter de Brixis	1322-1341	
Alan de Killum	1344-1358	Resigned
Thomas de Hedon	1358-1382	R o E
William Hannay	1382-1401	R o E

John Preston	1401-1403	R o E
Robert Martyn	1403-	
Master John Beke	-1435	R o E
2nd Rector of Lincoln College, Oxford.		
Master John Lound	1435-	
Chaplain.		
Sir Thomas Curteys	-1440	R o E
William Partryk, (priest)	1440-	
John Goodwyn, (chaplain)	1449-1452	Died
Master William Batte	1452-1473	R 0 E
Sir John Dikelon	1473-1474	R 0 E
Master Richard Dikelon (licentiate in decrees)	1474-1483	Resigned
Master William Seuwes (priest)	1483-1506	Died
Master William Clerke (Priest)	1505-1538	Died-1
Master William Mooke (Canon of York)	1538-1545	Died-1
Sir John Dickonson (Chaplain)	1545-1547	Resigned
Nicholas Field (chaplain)	1547-1548	Resigned
John Fennymore	1548-1554	Deprived
John Olif	1554-	
Richard Cove	1573-1583	Died
Francis Trigge M.A.	1583-1606	Died-1
John Stoneham M.A.	1606-1616	Died-1
William Warre D.D.	1617-1641	Died-1
Bartholomew Mitchell	1641-1641	Ejected
	(Commonwealth)	
Edward Gilder	before 1652-1678	Died-1
Robert Knight M.A.	1678-1703	Died-1
Francis Steevens	1703-1710	Died-1
John Heynes B.A. (clerk)	1710-1714	Died-1

George Knight B.A.	1714-1720	Died-1
John Peckard M.A.	1720-1765	Died-1
William Wroughton	1765-1770	Died
John Ridghill M.A. (also Rector of Bennington, Lincs)	1818-1820	Resigned
Henry John Disbrowe	1820-1867	Died-1
Frederick Abel Leslie-Melville M.A. Camb.	1867-1908	Died-1
William Hugh Mundy Hancock M.A. Camb.	1908-1913	Resigned
Jonathan Samuel Puckridge M.A.	1913-1933	Resigned-1
Joseph Tong Paddison M.A.Camb.	1933-1938	

(-1 Known to have been buried at Welbourn)

All the above compiled by Canon C.W.Foster F.S.A.

Percy Gaster	*1938-1941*	
David Joseph McClure M.A.	*1941-1949*	
Roger Sharpley M.A.MLitt	*1949-1961*	
Thomas Chevalier Clarkson	*1961-1964*	*-1*
Robin Clark B.A. (Priest in charge)	*1964-1965*	
Ernest Stanley Edward Clark	*1965-1971*	
Robert Ronald Woodfield M.A.	*1973-1978*	
Bryan James Bennett	*1984-1991*	
Arthur Clifford Knight M.A. (Priest in charge)	*1997-1999*	

Alan John Megahey M.A. *2001-2011 See pages 65-66*
Alison Healey *2013-2017*
Chris Goldsmith *2018-*

Compiled from the List of Rectors in St Chad's Church Welbourn

(It should be noted that the Rector now ministers not only to St. Chad's, Welbourn but also to the parishes of Leadenham, Brant Broughton and Stragglethorpe and Beckingham, which in turn are part of the Loveden Deanery.)

Rectors

The Story Before 1086 to 1936

The first name we know is E de Melles. The Domesday Survey of 1086 gives no name.
E de Melles became a crusader in 1219 and Master Warin de Muncy was his successor in St. Chad's Welbourn.
The third rector on the list "Achard, before 1229" seems to have been a native of Welbourn, for in the Assize Roll of 1202 A.D. under Welleburne, is the following. "Walterus f. Achard fugit" etc 'Walter, the son of Achard, fled upon the summons of Roger the Forestor for robbery and was in franc-pledge in the town of Welleburne of the Duke of Louvaine, and is in the Lord's mercy, he has no goods.' The franc-pledge of Welleburne to the Duke of Louvaine for the flight of Walter =1 mark.
The Duke of Louvaine had a house and a property, probably the Manor House in Welleburne in 1212 and he returned 8 marks to the King.
Franc-pledge was the pledge to the lord of the manor of the good conduct of the people, each for all and all for each. So, when the naughty boy absconded and the 'game-keeper' complained to the Duke, the town of Welleburne paid the fine.

Contemporary with this boy were William and Roger, the sons of Ogrim, tenants of 12 acres of land and an acre of meadow. Also Ivo, son of Osbert, in the concord with Godfrey de Luusin and Alice, his wife, about some land, on the octave of the Apostles Peter and Paul. 8th June 1202.

In 1324 Master Peter de Brixia, presented two years before by Eye Priory, sought protection. "Protection with clause nolumus for Master Peter de Brixia, parson of Welleburn in

the diocese of Lincoln, of Lombard, and not of the dominion of the King of France"

Alan de Killum, priest, 1344 was granted permission to remove all his crops at Killum near Bridlington, York to his church in the county of Lincoln, for the sustenance of himself and his household.

In 1382 the presentation of Willam Hannay, parson of Waldeneuton, Lincoln to the church of Welburn, in the King's gift by reason of the alien priory of Eye, being in his hand on account of the war with France.

Master John Beke was Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford 1450-52. While he was rector of Welburn he was elected the 2nd rector of Lincoln College, Oxford 1434, which had been founded in 1427. In 1445 the then Bishop of Lincoln held a visitation at the above college and there appeared before him the rector Beke, "and the fellows of the said college, first and before all things the Word of God was set forth in the Latin speech….by the honest Master, John Beke, Bachelor of the Sacred Theology and rector of the same college, after this text. "Visit us O Lord in Thy Salvation" etc and when this had come to an end in praiseworthy-wise the same rector exhibited…his letters of institution and induction in the said college."
He exchanged the living of Welburn in 1434 for that of Rollright, Oxford, which place "he vacated by death before June 1465". His surname 'Beke' indicates his Lincolnshire origin.

1483 William Seuwes had to reserve a pension of £10 to the late rector, Richard Dikelon (Dykelyng), surely another Lincolnshire name, who had resigned. The value of the living

ten years later was given in the Kings Books as £19-16-1p so it would not leave him much to live upon.

William Clerke 1505 Wappentake (*an administrative division in the county.)* of Longoboby *(part of the rural Deanery)* of Welborne).

In Valor Ecclesiasticus.

To Sir William Clerke, rector of the same, that is to say for the mansion with the land appertaining to it £00-20-0

For milk products, calves, chickens with other small tithes.	£00-30-0
Hay and corn	£12-13-4
For burial fees	£00-00-8
Lambs and wool	£00-19-
Tithes of the mill	£00-2-0
And for all and singular offerings during the year and for flax and reeds	£00-33-4
In full value all according to the book shown and examined.	£22-9-4
A certain annual pension payable to the Prior of Eye	£ 2-13-4
And so the clear value is	£19-16-0
Of which a tenth part is	£00-39-4

This valuation of the living in kind, is interesting and shows that the rectory farmed its own land. Compare the valuation of the Chantry.

William Clerke died in 1538 and his Memorial was in the east window in 1634. Dom. Reginalcus, Waddington, Curate. Dom. Thomas Kychyn, Cant.

The next rector, Willian Mooke was also Prebendary of Tockerington, York. He was buried in the chancel of Welborne church in May 1545. His Memorial was in the east window too. He was a kinsman of John Chapman of York, notary public and registrar of the Archbishop's Chancery. Chapman was a rich man and he left him the advowson (next presentation) of the parish church of Foston, Leicester. To Alice Mooke, his niece, he left his silver-gilt salt with cover, 22 ounces. To William Mooke, a bowl of silver-gilt, weight 24 ounces, together with a partnership "on the death of my sister Alice" in his extensive lead mines in the North of England.

John Fennymore in 1554 was deprived of his living, probably for being married.

Richard Cove in 1576 did not reside in the parish.

Francis Trigg, rector 1583 comes into all the records, as he was a noted man of his day. Master of Arts of University College, Oxford, Proctor in Convocation and a Preacher licensed by the Archbishop of Canterbury.
The number of clergy in this diocese qualified to preach at this period was probably 57, though it is said that six of these were doubtful. No wonder the 'Sermon Bell' was rung, as at Welborne, until there was no further need of it.
The Bishop had great difficulty in supplying preachers enough for the diocese. Of some of these it was said that, "they were able to catechize and privately to exhort, though they have not the gift of utterance and (or) audacity to preach in the pulpit."
There is an entry about these special preachers in an old book in the church of Kirk Ireton, Derby. This church was part of

the gift by Henry 1 to Lincoln Cathedral. This advowson remained in the hands of the Dean of Lincoln in the time of Henry V111.
William Storer, a native of the place, had given some money to provide a godly sermon on the Patronal Festival, by a sufficient preacher, who was to have 10s for his pains, besides 12d for his dinner!

In 1700 Mr. Anthony Blackwall, M.A. of Kirk Ireton, vicar of Elvaston, Head master of the Free School and lecturer to the church of All Saint's, Derby, was appointed to preach on Trinity Sunday, "but Mr. More opposed ye said Mr. Blackwall and denied him the use of his pulpit." Perhaps he had not been consulted? But, the preacher was, however, rewarded for his pains! 'Paid to Mr. Blackwall for his attendance and preparing to preach ye sermon, 10s. 0d. for ye dinner of preacher 1s 0d.
The following is from Wood's ~Athenae Oxoniensis ~
"Francis Trigg, a noted and godly preacher did first begin to be conversant among the Oxonian muses in University College, anno 1564, aged 17 or thereabout, took the degree in Arts, entered into the sacred functions and at length became rector of Welborne, near to Beckingham in Lincolnshire, in which county, if I mistake not, he was born."
He published several of his commentaries and a sermon, preached at Grantham in 1592, on Isa.24, 1-3. It is kept in the Bodleian Library at Oxford.
The chained library, which can be seen today in Grantham Parish Church, was chiefly given by Francis Trigg. He made the gift to the Alderman and prebendaries of Grantham in 1598. (Prebendaries are *Members of the Roman Catholic or Anglican clergy; a form of Canon who administers affairs in the Cathedral or church. They would have particular seats or STALLS known as Prebendal Stalls.)* Each book is chained to its shelf….The Bible in those days was precious…to be read but not removed. There was formerly a Latin inscription

on the wall, recording the gift of Bibles and other books. "Optima Franciscus donavit Biblis Triggus Welbourniae."etc. He and his mother together gave £3-6-8p yearly to the poor of Grantham and for so doing were elected among the benefactors. Francis Trigg gave £5, also like sums to the Sparrow Charity in Welborne. (MS account book 1558) Thomas Trigg, his father, was of Stamford. Mrs. Elizabeth Trigg, his mother married her second husband, John Hussey.
"Welborne, a village famous for nothing but a noted and godly preacher, Mr. Francis Trigg, who was in 1605 rector of this parish and born in the county…." Was he sometimes styled 'a painful preacher?' ie, one who took pains with his work? There were 169 communicants in 1603. The population was about 200. Perhaps the Preacher and the Musket together drew many to the church. "At length paying his last debt to nature at Welborne, before-mentioned, he was buried in the chancel of the church there on 12th May 1606" The register reads....Franncis Trigge, clerk was buried…. and Simon Reace, his curate, wrote 'Mr.' in the margin before his rector's name.
His name is among 'the better sort' of ministers, who were required to contribute towards the provision of Light Horse for Ireland in 1601-2. He was assessed at 10s. Some ministers only paid half that. Mr. Richard Lange, rector of Leadenham and Mr. Miles Garthwaite, rector of Fulbeck, were also among 'the better sort'.

On the back of the Presentation Deed of Mr. John Stoneham, 1606, no. 51, it is stated that he was M.A. of Gonvell and Caius College, Cambridge. Born in Norwich. Aged 25. Not married. Not beneficed elsewhere. Priest by the Bishop of Colchester in 1603. Preacher but no 'licensee'. He was then instituted to Welborne. By the entries in the Registers he had 6 children. "Marye, the daughter of Mr. John Stoneham, minister," who died when she was three. John, Grace, Samuel,

Martha and Benjamin, and 18 months after Benjamin had been baptized on "20th Nov. 1616 was Mr. John Stoneham, minister of the church of Welborne buried." His wife is not once mentioned. SHE would want a pension of £10 a year, but she was left with 5 little children. Twenty-six years later, a Samuel Stoneham M.A. was vicar of Sempringham.

In the following February (1617) William Warre, clerk, became rector. He was appointed archdeacon of Leicester in 1629-1641-2. Prebendary of Louth 1621-31. Prebendary of Leighton Buzzard, 1631.He was buried at Welborne. "Will. Warre, Doctor of Divinity, Archdeacon of Leicester, Prebendary of Lincoln and rector of the church of Welburne, bur. Sept 29, 1641."
This name occurs before in the registers, as a Mr. and Mrs. Phillippe Warre had children baptized in 1600-2. Perhaps the rector belonged to this family and looking at the entry of his burial and his achievements, it would seem they were extolling a man they were justly proud of, who they knew and loved and was a native of the place.
Of course he was away a great deal and had many curates. There is one name not on the list, that of Robert Audley. He is a native and he is styled Vicar of Welborne. Perhaps he was curate in charge. He was aged 30 at ordination, baptized at Welborne in 1590. He died at Caythorpe in 1628.

(The English Civil War 1642-1651 was a series of civil wars and political machinations between Parliamentarians (Roundheads) and Royalists (Cavaliers), mainly over the manner of England's governance and issues of religious freedom. It was part of the wider Wars of the Three Kingdoms. Charles 1 (1600-1649) was the second son of James 1V of Scotland (James 1 of England) and was born in Fife, Scotland and christened David Lindsay. He succeeded after his brother, Henry died of typhoid in 1612. The

battles began as a result of a conflict over the power of the monarchy and the rights of parliament. Charles reigned from 1625 until 1649, when Oliver Cromwell (1599-1658) had him beheaded. England was mostly a Protestant country but Charles brought in reforms that seemed too Roman Catholic for many of the populace. 7 years of fighting took place with thousands of lives lost. Oliver Cromwell established the Commonwealth in 1649, naming himself Lord Protector. He established himself as head of state and head of government so ruled as a virtual dictator but in 1658 he died and was succeeded by his son Richard, who only ruled for just over a year before the Restoration of the monarchy took place, with Charles 11 being crowned in 1660.)

With Bartholomew Mitchell, rector 1642, there begins for Welborne, as for other places, that event which altered history. C.H. Woolley in his "Ur of the Chaldees" says "even the annalists in their sober table of the reign of kings, make mention of it (the flood) as an event which interrupted the course of history." So this chronicle is interrupted because Bartholomew Mitchell was ejected from his living and Welborne had no rector for about 8 years.

The story begins with his ejectment. "He was turned out by the Earl of Manchester, about the year 1644, for absenting himself when the Parliament Forces were there. And returning to gather his dues when the King's forces came, which is the whole of his charge (preferred against him) and in plain words amounts to this much. He had Fled for his Life and returned for his Livelihood." It was at this time that so many of the clergy of Lincolnshire were turned out. Various charges were brought against them, which cost them their livings and reduced them to poverty and starvation. In some cases the vicar's wife and children were granted a fifth part of the tithes, rents and Easter books of the said vicarage….the said Vicar

and his wife yielding all due obedience to the said sequestrators.
Sir Edward Hussey had his estate sequestered for large sums to several churches, Grantham, Tattershall etc, because he was recorded a delinquent and interested in church property. Long Leadenham, Fulbeck and Wellingore were all sequestered and the parson of Fulbeck, Mr. Dove Williamson, ejected.

The number of horses and horsemen that were offered to the King (Charles 1) at this time, when he was proceeding to Lincoln, was 400. Among the number, Sir Charles Hussey, 2 horses; Sir Edward Hussey 6; William Welby 2; Christopher Beresford 2; Sir Francis Fane 4. They were to be raised and maintained in the county for 3 months, for His Majesty's progress but not to be used in the cause of war.

In February 1643 "was a soudjer buryed" at Welborne and "Mr. Timothy Webster, Gent and Mr. John Thorold, Gent were both buryed 1644." And "Richard Atkinson, souldjer for ye king" was buried October 18. There is a little cross (x) against two last names in the same ink as the writing. Mr. John Thorold, son of Mr. John Thorold was 32. Possibly he was one of the Captains and fought for 'ye king' too but a 'souldjer' who is unnamed may have fought for the Roundheads. But they gave him a Christian burial.
There is a name in the register of 1594, "William Kemp baptized" against which is written, "in actual rebellion ano. do. 1645" The soldiers of Cromwell were not over gentle in their treatment of those who differed from them. The Kemps were a numerous family and perhaps Mr. William Kemp was forced to stable their horses and made to ride away with them when they left for Lincoln.

It is through the pages of the oldest register….of value because of its age….that most is known about these years in

Welborne. When Bartholomew was ejected he seems to have had a curate who signed the book "William Hanstead Curat" and went on making the entries in it and buried the soldiers until Jan. 1646. Then the entries are made in a hand that has occurred before in this book. Edw. Gilder. The next page is in a different hand and then 2 pages are written by John Headland, the carpenter, ?clerk and signed by him. One more page in Gilder's hand and then on 18 September a page is taken up by "the inhabitants." It is evident that they are not satisfied with this state of things. There is no minister to marry the young people….only 3 marriages in two years. So they invite Mr. Thompson, a Justice of the Peace for the parts of Kesteven to help them. They call a Parish Meeting, as indeed they were ordered to do. It will be seen that the first to sign was Edward Gilder, so perhaps it was at his instigation that the meeting was held.

The writing is beautiful but faint and part of one line is illegible.

"We the inhabitants of ye Pish of Welborne have this 18th day of September 1653, made choyce of Robert Linsey of ye same to be or pish (our parish) regester according to a Late Acte in yth (this) behalf made and p(ro)vided. Dated at Welborne ye day and year above said.

Edward Gilder. Will Kinge. Willm Turfitt. Thomas Turfitt. Robert Patchell. Roger Dent. Thomas Hesselldine. Richard Gilliam. John Robards. Willm Hinder. Willm Kemp. Willm Doughty. Willm Dines. Thos Gilliam. Willm Deake. Geffrey Tory. John Mabbott.

I…..? for "the days and years above said approval of ye above names Robert Linsey to be regester for ye pish of Welborne, according to ye above said acte ye choyce made of him."

Signed Wm Thompson "

The act of Parliament referred to, was passed 24th August 1653, directing that 'the inhabitants of every parish should make choice of some able and honest person, before 22nd

September 1653, to keep the parish registers.' And very well did this man keep the registers that were in his care.
Mr. William Thompson, J.P. lived at Roxham, a hamlet about 1 mile north of Sleaford. There used to be a private chapel but there do not seem to be any registers extant.

In those days, when the country parsons were inhibited from doing their work, Mr. Thompson married several couples from the surrounding villages. It would seem that the 'regester' (R Linsey) accompanied them. He is so very explicit. The second entry that he makes is of John Headland and Elizabeth Isaacs, who were "maryed at Roxham before Mr. Thompson, Justice of Peace at the houres betwixt ten and eleaven Feb. ye 7th" Another couple got there at the houres betwixt nine and ten June 1st. Two couples went to Lincoln. Mr. Willerton J.P. maryed them betwixt the houres of ten and twelve.
These civil marriages were all that were possible at that time and the register itself becomes a civil register. Mr. Robert Linsey, the registrar signing it at the foot of each page, most likely before the JP, who dated it each time in red ink. And all the babies are "borne" instead of baptized. That goes on until 1660. He himself is the last to get married to Ann Baley and their daughter, Cilena was baptized in January 1661.

It will be seen from the list of rectors that Edward Gilder was rector in 1662, but he wrote from 1660. He had no patron and it seems likely that he just came back as soon as he was allowed. 'Came back' because it is his hand that signed the pages and his beautiful writing, "curio eccle de Welborne" (curate of the church of Welborne) from 1627 until after he buried his rector, Archdeacon Warre, in September 1642. Then he wrote the entries in 1646 and 1652 and is the first to sign the petition of 1653. The next signature is Edw. Gilder rector. It is nice to think of him watching over the place and perhaps sometimes going into the church to pray for peace. He wrote

up the accounts of the Sparrow Charity. Did he bury the parishioners unofficially and keep an eye on the register book and other valuables?
It does not seem that any other man was put in charge here, as was the case at Fulbeck, where the people were ordered "quietly to permit it", and a "godly orthodox Divine" was given the cure, and the emoluments, for the time being.
In 1658 John Ousley, late minister of Claypole sent a petition to the Protector at Lincoln, with a certificate of his good character, signed by neighbouring gentlemen, the inhabitants of Claypole and 3 ministers, among whom is Edward Gilder of Welborne.
Wherever Edward Gilder lived during the Commonwealth, he eventually got to the parsonage house. He made "a true terrier of the glebe, belonging to the parsonage of Welborne, February 2nd 1664."

(A land terrier is a record system for an institution's land and property holdings. It differs from a land registry in that it is maintained for the organizations own needs and may not be publicly accessible. Typically, it consists of written records related to a map. In France the term 'terrier' refers to feudal records and the word comes from the Latin 'terra' meaning land.)

INPRIM. The dwelling house containing a hall open to the roofe; a parlour with a chamber over it; a butterie with a chamber over it; a kitchen with a chamber over it; a larder with a chamber over it. A milke house, a brew-house chambered over and a bakehouse. A little house consisting of 2 bayes of building, chambered over; a barne to lay corne in consisting of 5 bayes of building; 2 stables with rooms to lay in, consisting of 4 bayes of building; 3 swine coates; a garden and an orchard. The homestead consists of four acres of ground, or thereabout, upon the East, abutting upon the high

way. On the West, the town streets. Butting on the South on the highway (Moat Lane) and on the North, on a close called the Dovecote Close. It has a pasture, 20 acres; ditto 10 acres. The Pingle 12 acres. South Ings 17 acres. North Ings 18 acres and on the Heath 40 acres.
Edward Gilder, Rector.
Signed: William Picker, Church Warden X…his mark.

ON October 13th 1666, there came a great storm. Two days later an account of it was written by Dr. Thomas Fuller, who says that it came in a channel….some saw it coming like fire. Moving in a circle, yet it came straight on. The following is a copy of a letter issued by the Kesteven Justices of the Peace to the various churchwardens throughout the county. A brief.

Copy of an Ancient M.S.

1667. Lincoln, Kesteven

Thomas Hussey of Norton Disney. Thomas Ellis. Anthy Thorold. Geo. Thorold.

Whereas, upon the Thirteenth day of October last, between the hours of 3 and 4 in the afternoon, it pleased the Lord to visit the town of Welborne, with a sad and dreadful Judgment. There was Thunder, hailstones as big as pigeon's eggs, congealed and sharp-pointed and after some smart cracks there was continuous thunder for above a quarter of an hour together. And a tedious, dismal storm ensued that in less than four minutes blew down four and forty dwelling houses. As also their barns, stables, hovels and stacks and that remained was spoiled with rain before it could possibly be gathered together.
The whirlwind carried the breadth of eleven or twelve score yards. It had the appearance of fire and a sulpherous smell.

The day exceeding dark and it threw house and tree into all quarters.
It pleased God to spare their lives but only one youth was slain. The losses above mentioned as appears unto us by certificates under the hands of Thos. Lamb, John Baker, and William Glasiour, were appointed to view the same, amounting to £604-14-2, besides the buildings amounting to £800 more, by reason whereof above 40 families are not only become harbourless, but also cast into great poverty. That whereas, formerly they lived very plentifully and were helpful to others, they are now not able to subsist themselves, without the assistance of well-disposed people. And whereas the inhabitants of Welborne hath petitioned us to commiserate their sad calamities and take into consideration their intolerable losses – we His Majesties Justices of the Peace for the part and county aforesaid, do hereby recommend their distressed condition to all well disposed Christians, whose compassion will certainly be moved to extend their charitable contributions towards the relief and support of their Christian neighbours, whom thereby they preserve from perishing. And if you have occasion to use them in like request, they will be ready to requite you to their utmost power. Dated at Doddington under our hands and seals, the 26th day of January in the 8th year of his Majesty's reign, that now is King Charles the 2nd over England, Scotland, Ireland and France. The several churchwardens are desired to endorse the money collected with their names thereunto.

An Answer: Collected in the Parish of Frampton on the 16th day of January 1667, upon the publishing of this letter of request, the sum of 12shillings.
Witness our hands: Anthony Grant. Minister.
John Weston and James Metton, Churchwardens.

Another letter of October 22nd reads, "Ra. Hope to Williamston….on the 13th there was the strongest whirlwind or earthquake or both, in Lincolnshire that was ever heard of. In the town of Welborne, near Newark, of 80 stone houses only 3 were left standing, the timber being so dispersed that no one can tell his own. 3 or 4 persons were killed. Part of a church at Boothby was blown down and numbers of trees were torn up by the roots. The death of 2 women is recorded on this 13th October. In some MS. Registers of Wellingore, Jane Morrice and Eliz. Cockfield were both slain by a sudden blast of wind. It blew off the broach of Boothby steeple and tore up the very foundations of the church so yet ye church was quite extirpated". A faculty was granted for the rebuilding of Boothby church and steeple in 1674. "No doubt long dilapidated but finally blown down in this great storm of 1666, which wrought so much havoc at Welborne"

The church then built disappeared in 1842; the present one is by Nicholson.

They (the parishioners of Welborne) had an opportunity very soon of requiting the generosity shown them. A receipt on a sheet of paper printed in black letter type is dated 1693. "Received then of the Minister (Robert Knight) and churchwardens of parish of Welborne in ye county of Lincoln, the sum of 4 shillings, being money collected towards the relief of the poor sufferers, of (from) Bealt in county of Brecon towards their great loss by fire. Recorded by me, Rees James." The population was only 217 so the gift was not large. (They had another chance when on May 21st 1916, they sent £1-7-5 to the rector of Skellingthorpe, on his letter of request, about the rebuilding of their church which had been destroyed by fire.)

The 70 odd stone houses, which were blown down in Welborne, are thought to have stood at the North end of the village, the Nookin, and at the South end, Sapperton. There are stone foundations in the fields in both places.

Captain John Cragg of Threakingham wrote in 1790, that the Manor House showed the effect of the extraordinary storm in the newer masonry of the middle part of the building, which it destroyed, leaving both ends standing.

In 1665, Mrs. Judith Gilder, wife of Mr. Edward Gilder was buryed on 29th September. He himself was laid to rest somewhere in this church or churchyard, one summer day, August 17th 1678 aged about 80.

Robert Knight, rector 1678, came from Benington in Holland, Lincs. to which church his father, Isaac Knight had presented him in 1667. He married Alice, daughter of Richard Riley of Welborne. Their daughter Alice was baptized in 1683. Isaac, their son, baptized 1684 was buried at 5 days old. George, the future rector, was baptized in July 1686.

A translation of the abridged Latin on their tablet on the South wall of the chancel reads: **"Here lies Alice, most beloved wife of Robert Knight, Rector of this church, daughter of Richard Riley of Welborne, Knight. Robert, her husband, son of Isaac Knight of Lincoln, Knight, and George, son of the above mentioned, also rector of this church. They died, she on 4th June 1688, her husband on 1st September 1703 and their son on September 28th 1720. In memory of whom the 2 daughters and sisters of the above who are left having set up this short tablet to record their grief and affection."**

Robert Knight was one of the Commissioners in 1680, appointed to see about the rebuilding of the chancel of the church of Hough on the Hill, which was altogether dilapidated. They reported that if the ruined south chancel aisle was pulled down the materials would go far towards rebuilding the chancel.

The next rector was Francis Steevens, who writes four pages of the register, most beautifully. He buried Robert Knight nearly 2 years later and was himself buried by Mr. John Heynes, in September 1709, having resigned in March, he was

only 35 yrs. old. His tombstone was in the chancel in 1832. The inscription**: "Mr. Francis Steevens, late rector of this church, deceased ye September 16, 1709 aged 35 years."** Is cut high up on another stone, today, above a brass on which was recorded the death of Nicholas Baylye 1557, which has disappeared, like all the others. It is set at the foot of the chancel steps, near the pulpit.

He too made an inventory and Terrier in 1708. It contains a list of the church plate etc.

A Terrier of Welbourn 1708….The Homestall is 2 acres, fenced with stone walls. 30 acres of Gleab (Glebe) land on ye West side of ye church yard in 2 closes…..2 closes of Gleab land East side of ye Homestall….36 acres….40 acres of Gleab land on ye Heath. All ye enclosed ground pays 1shilling an acre pr. an. Four pence at Lady-day and Eight pence at ye feast of St. Bartholomew. Twenty acres belonging to Temple Bruar Tithe Pres. What corn ye Heath yields pays tithe in kind; the sheep if they go but 8 months pay a fleece in ye Hundred for a month. Churchings six-pence, marriages 4 shillings, strangers buried in ye church, six shillings and eight pence. Mortuaries 10 shillings…..Outgoings £5-11-2p.

3 bells in ye steeple and one little one hanging in ye window. 2 Common Prayer books. One church Bible. One surplice. A pulpit cloth & cushion & a very large Communion Table Cloth, all of Velvet. A linen table- cloth and one napkin. A cup with a cover made of silver weighing half a pound. A pewter flagon, weighing four pound. The Town repair the church and church yard, the Rector and ye chancel. The Clerks wages, £2-10s per an. paid by ye Church-warden out of ye Town levy. This is a true Terrier.

Signed

William Rudd. Thomas Hide. George Thacker.

Francis Steevens. Rector.

Richard Chalons. Church-warden.

Mr. John Heynes, rector 1709-1714 came from Benington as did Mr. Knight. He had been there since 1696. Sir William Ellis, Baronet appointed both him and his successor, George Knight in 1714. He only lived to be 35.
The following is taken from the Mirror of the Diocese of Lincoln, in the episcopate of William Wake and Eden Gibson 1705-1723. They are the answers to Bishop's questions before a visitation:
Patron, Sir William Ellis.
Incumbent, Mr. Geo. Knight. Instituted Aug. 1714. Reprises.
Mr. John Peckard. Instituted 19th Nov. 1729. Reprises.
Services twice on Sunday.
Catechizing – continually..in Lent..in Summer. Communicants £3..5..6.
A Quaker Conventicle.
Real value more than £100....£200
Kings Books £19-16-1d.
Tenths £1-19-7d.
Observations. Sir Edward Hussey, Bart, lives in this Parish. No charity is mentioned here as is the case in some parishes. The Sparrowe charity, bequeathed in 1558, having come to an end in 1719.
Mr. John Peckard, 1720, had married Mrs Mary Fulford in 1715. Six children were born here. Four died in infancy and Mrs. Mary Peckard was buried in 1747. He, Mr. Peckard, was vicar-choral of Lincoln Cathedral, which position he resigned on coming to Welbourn.
The old book of Churchwardens Accounts was started in his time, 1735 and they kept very exact accounts. He passed to his rest on his birthday August 1st 1765. A plain brass on the chancel wall records this:
"Qui dolor e tristi prorumpit corde parentes cum recolo hic positos! sed meminesse juvat. Sed meminesse tui pater o venerande juvatque et piget et grata dicere mento vale tu

quoque, tu valeas, Chara ah! Charissima mater! Ipse tamen curae sim memor usque tuae sim memor amborum felix ita discere possim, vivere nil optans, nil me tuensque mori. J. Peckard a:a:ann 45 hujus: Ecc: Rector ob Aug 1 die suo natali 1765 a. ae. 76. M. Peckard ob Jul.4. 1757. a. ae. 58 parientibus o:m: posuit filius. P. Peckard S.T.P. Col: Mag: Cant: Praefec 1790. Ipse brevi moriturus."

A free translation is:

Sacred to the Memory of Rev. John Peckard and Mary, his wife. That sorrow breaks forth from this sad heart when I remember the parents who are buried here. It delights me to remember them. It delights me to remember thee O Venerable Father, and yet I am sorry to say good-bye. Farewell also to you dear, dearest Mother, may I be ever mindful of thy care. May I be mindful of both of you. May I also be able to learn, having no desire to live, nor fear to die. J Peckard, A.M.45 years rector of this church, who died Aug.1st, on his birthday 1757 aged 76. M. Peckard, who died July 4th 1757 aged 58. The son places this to his parents: Peter Peckard, S.T.P. Prefect of Magdalene College Camb. 1790. My life is short and I am about to die.

(The following is from a note supplied by David Close – see also page 209)

One of Peckard's pamphlets published in 1778 was entitled "Am I not a Man and a Brother?" and this inspired Josiah Wedgwood, the pottery manufacturer, to produce a range of crockery showing the image below. In 1792 Peckard became Dean of Peterborough Cathedral, where his death is recorded in a slab on the floor of the nave. I understand that the City of Peterborough are considering creating a more fitting memorial to him as the father of the Movement for the Abollition of Slavery.

David Close

Peter Peckard, D.D.

With so much interest in the "Black Lives Matter" campaign it may be of interest that one of the earliest and most fervent Englishmen promoting the Abolition of Slavery was the son of a former Rector of Welbourn. This was Peter Peckard, whose portrait in Magdalen College, Cambridge, where he was Master from 1781, is shown above.

His father John Peckard was for 45 years Rector until his death in 1765, and Peter erected a memorial to both his parents which still hangs in the Chancel of St Chad's Church, Welbourn, written in Latin.

Peter was born in 1718 and lived to the age of 79. He left Welbourn aged 16 to be educated at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, where he gained a M.A, degree before becoming ordained, and initially served as an army chaplain with the Grenadier Guards. He later held various livings in the Peterborough area and in 1781 was appointed Master of Magdalen College Cambridge.

In the same year, 1781, a shocking incident occurred at sea when the master of the slave trading vessel "Zong" threw 131 sick African slaves overboard in order to claim their insurance value! Peter Peckard preached a number of sermons against the slave trade, some of which were published as tracts and pamphlets. He is regarded as the intellectual father of the movement for the abolition of slavery.

Peckard became Vice Chancellor of the University and he set an essay competition which is still current annually to this day, in his name, posing the question "Is it lawful to make slaves of others against their will?" The first winner was an undergraduate Thomas Clarkson, who became thereafter a celebrated abolitionist and dedicated his whole life to the cause. He later recruited William Wilberforce to lead the battle in Parliament, culminating in the Slavery Abolition Act 1833.

There is a deed dated September 1736 which states that Ann Kent of Newark upon Trent, Conveys to R. Peniston Booth, D.D. Dean of Windsor, and the Rev. John Peckard of Welbourn, Lincoln, certain lands in the parish of St. Swithin in the City of Lincoln and elsewhere, in trust for the benefit of John Wilkinson's charity school or hospital at Lincoln.

Mr. Ridghill and his wife Arabelle, nee Herring, came (as vicar) in August 1770 from Newark. A good deal was done at the church in 1779. They had paid for one 30ft ladder pole, 4s-6d and 31 oak staves, 1d each and a small ladder pole, 1s-3d and 14 staves. They built or re-built the church wall. Mr.

Ridghill was styled a famous, godly preacher. He went to the visitations and the confirmations, with the young people.
His wife died in 1806 and was buried at Newark. In 1807 he married Millicent, the youngest daughter of Richard Welby, Esquire, deceased and Ann of Welbourn, on 8th September. They had no children and he bought the Hall for her from her brother. She lived there for many years after her husband's death. He died on 17th January 1818. His Memorial is on the floor of the church, N. aisle as well as on the wall. The plate was probably inscribed after she died 4th August 1840 aged 79, as General Loft does not mention it in 1832.
Mr. Ridghill had lent the parish £150 for repairing the church at 5% and the churchwardens paid his widow the interest every year, until they returned the principle in 1823.

An Indenture: A lease for three lives is a deed among the old parish papers. It concerns the land near his home at Newark 1765. The rent was to be paid to John Ridghill, "yearly, at or in the North porch of the Collegist Church of Southwell, 28/- at the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary and at St. Michael the Archangel, and also two Fat Hens at every Christmas during continuance of this said form."
Millicent Welby was a witness, probably chief bridesmaid, to her friend Mary Brown who was married in April 1780. Her name in the register is such a pretty, delicate signature and again on her own wedding day.
In 1832 her seat in the church was a large, square pew with a canopy or cover, on the North side of the chancel arch. No doubt it was like the Manorial pew. Her father and grandfather had used it before her. It would have had long, red cushions on the seats, huge, high footstools and a little door that shut from inside.
The house she lived in as a child and returned to as a widow and the rectory where she lived for eleven years, are both pulled down and rebuilt. The Old Hall was built round a

courtyard, with many small windows…a beautiful old place. The Welby's had lived there for 200 years. "Ann, daughter of Thomas Welby, gent and Mary, baptized June 1650" is one of the earliest entries.

Madam Welby, widow of Richard Welby of Denton, went to live at Welbourn after their son William, born 1710, married or came of age. She died there 1748 and was buried at Denton. She left Welbourn to her third son, Richard born 1712 and he was buried at Welbourn 1780. He is Millicent Ridghill's father. Ann, his widow was buried there in 1805, aged 78. Ann, their youngest daughter had died the previous year, a spinster. Their memorial tablets are on the North wall of the church and on the floor. The family burial place at Denton, is and was, in 1610, in the N aisle of that church.

Mrs. Elizabeth Welby was married in 1651 at Welbourn to Mr. John Barnable.

Ellinor Welby, born 1711, married William Gery, gentleman, of Bushmead Priory, Beds, at Welbourn in 1740. Mr. Peckard baptized their triplets, born to them and he noted the continued good health of the babies in his Transcript's, the following year.

Richard Earl, son of Mr. Richard Welby and Ann, his wife above, was baptized 8th November 1755. Mr. Welby was churchwarden in 1756-1759. An Office Book in the church is inscribed "Ex Dono, the gift of Richard Welby, Welbourn." There is no date. It is bound in red leather, tooled in gold and contains the Black Rubric, in black letter type.
The font, described by General Loft, which John Welby gave in 1733, must have looked very small in this church. It was replaced by the present one in 1884, being perhaps broken, for in 1913 it was lying chipped and derelict at the West end of

the church. Newly built churches in poor populous districts, were asking for disused books and pieces of church furniture and so to one of these it was sent.

In 1790 Captain Cragg wrote, "In the North aisle of Welbourn are buried several of the Welby family, who have long, and do now occupy the large mansion of Sapperton in this parish."

Thomas Welby, gentleman, and Mary had 12 children baptized at Welbourn 1650-1665. Richard Welby paid tax on four hearths in Welbourn in 1665 and 1671. Richard Welby, Esquire, of Welbourn was a member of the Gentleman's Society of Spalding, 1712.

John and Mary West in 1737 mortgaged land, a messuage and 66 acres in Burgh and two other places, to Selina Welby, spinster of Welbourn, for £500. John West of Frith Bank, in 1745, sold the land and repaid the £500 to extinguish the mortgage.

Richard Welby of Welbourn 1844. Perhaps his aunt Millicent Ridghill had left him the house when she died. Not long afterwards, Mr. Thomas Lamb, the churchwarden, bought it and turned it into a school for sons of gentlemen. Mr. Rinder bought it in about 1860. He pulled it down and built the cottages that stand in pairs on the west of the Green. Miss Disbrowe built the present house and lived there after her father died. Her sale was in 1871. General Allen was the next owner. He died in 1893. Mr. King, the next owner died in 1909 and Mr. Robert Chatterton is the present owner. (1933)

(*In the following years it was owned by Mr. R.J. Charlton. This was followed by Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Chatterton and their two children, Robert and a daughter. They were followed by a Newark antique dealer who then sold it to*

John and Ann Halford. He was a banker. They then sold it to a builder, Barry Lawton and his wife Janet. They converted it into an Old Peoples Home and built a nice new house for themselves at the rear south side. They split up and Janet continued with the business. Janet eventually sold it to a group who ran several such homes. It has recently changed hands again and is registered to Care Plus Homes. 2021)

Sir Charles Welby, Baronet, of Denton Manor, inherits for the families of Denton, Upton and Williams, through the marriage of the parents of Richard Welby, Esquire, of Welbourn, born 1713. Some of their servants were buried near them in the church. "Philip Radford, a faithful servant 1739." Mrs. Bainbridge, nee Mary Ann Lee, was buried 3rd July 1855, aged 87. She had been with her mistress in the West Indies. She had been the overseer of the women slaves on a Plantation, going the rounds at night, with a huge bunch of keys, dangling at her waist, to see that all was quiet. When they came to Welbourn, she had in her charge a Negro woman, to whom this country, of course, seemed very strange. She could not believe when told of the winter cold. "Oh! Missa Lee, me, Peggy cannot believe dat. Dat God Almighty make water and den turn it into rock stone."

The cowls, smoke Jacks, on the chimneystacks, she called Devils. "Dem people be velly wicked in dat house." When asked why, she said, "Dey hab got a Debil on de top, him turn round and round till him tired, den him top." There is a reference to this scribbled on a flyleaf of an old dictionary, that belonged to Mrs. Bainbridge, when she was a very old woman and living with a Mrs. Wilson who sometimes took charge of sewing in school. She then gave it to her tiny child, Elizabeth Wilson, who later on became the Schoolmistress. In turn she taught Sir. William Robertson, as a boy.

It is a small brown book, sewn with string. There is no date but there are two signatures. Mary Ann Lee and Mrs. Ridghill,

written on the book cover. Other words are written in any blank space:
Marseilles, Verandah, Sooth, Jealousies, Mangos, Achebone, Mosquito, Oohroo, Pickeninny, Chyan Pepper, Hierapicra, Es'cher-a scar, eek- to lengthen, catchword-at the bottom of a page to turn over, Chigoe- in my toe, Cowls- on chimney (no) more smoke, D'oily-a small coloured napkin, i.e.- that is, viz- that is to say.
Belonging to this woman who was in the West Indies so many years ago, it is interesting. The little book calls itself, "The New Spelling Dictionary." It contains a Grammatical Introduction, words alike in sound and signification, eg, Porter, a man who carries a drink. Included were, useful names of men and women, cities, boroughs and towns. Heathen gods and goddesses, heroes and heroines.

The old rectory was nearer the road to church than the present house, now known as Welbourn Place. The house was in the hollow and there was a little green door in the high wall. The Terrier of 1708 says: The house is built with stone and covered with tile, three rooms on a floor with closets and two little rooms on each floor. The kitchen and hall laid with stone. Ye parlour is borded, ye three chambers are borded and ye three garrets are plastered. One barn, three little outhouses consisting of five bays of buildings, built with stone and covered with ….?Two stables and a dovehouse consisting of three bays of building built with stone and covered with thatch. A brew-house, a wash-house a cellar, a dairy, a coalhouse and corn chamber consisting of two bays of building built with stone and covered with thatch.
It must have covered some ground. It had some lovely old trees, fig and walnut to shade the dairy and brew-house but the house itself was small and perhaps not very sanitary. In the Bishop's enquiries of 1664, in the account of glebe, it is stated that, "the rectory house is very small and incommodious." It

was seen that something WAS wrong. Mr. Robert Knight died after 6 years. He was 60. The next rector was only 35 and the next man only lived 4 years. Mr. George Knight, 6 years and he was 35 too when he died. Four men in 42 years! Mr. Ridghill was rector for 48 years. He had money, so no doubt made things more comfortable.

The Rev. Augustus Edward Hobart, rector 1818-1820, was the third son of the Hon. George Vere Hobart. He succeeded his brother in 1849 as the 6th Earl of Buckinghamshire. He held the living of Benington in Holland, Lincs, at the same time as Welbourn. Both livings were in the gift of the earl's family. Eleanor Agnes, Countess. Wife of the 4th earl, who died in 1851, presented him to Welbourn and he named his little son, born there Dec. 1818, Vere Henry.
Augustus Edward, Baron Hobart of Blickling, co, Norfolk, 1793-1885, so he lived to be 92. He married in 1816, Mary, elder daughter of the eminent John Williams, King's Sergeant and sister of the Right Hon. Edward Vaughan-Williams. They had 4 sons and 2 daughters.
He married a second time in 1826, Miriah Isabelle, elder daughter of the Rev. Godfrey Egremont and they had 3 sons and 4 daughters, the fourth, they named Eleanor Agnes after her great aunt. The earl, who was of course in Holy Orders and prebendary of Wolverhampton, was succeeded in 1885, by his grandson, Sydney Carr, the son of his second son Frederick John Robinson of Nocton.

Mr. Disbrowe came to Welbourn as a young man and was rector for 47 years. He was related through his ancestors to Oliver Cromwell. In 1636 John Disbrowe, son of Colonel John Disbrowe, married Jane, 6th daughter of Robert Cromwell of Huntingdon and a sister of the future Lord Protector. His mother was Charlotte, daughter of the 3rd Earl of Buckinghamshire, who married Col, Edward Disbrowe in

1789. His brother was named Edward Cromwell. They were both educated at Eton.
Mr. Disbrowe married Elizabeth Sharp and they had 6 sons and daughters. Mrs. Elizabeth Disbrowe was buried 10th Oct. 1829 aged 34, - a short married life. What a family to bring up without a mother and the eldest was only 6. A memorial to the governess, who was with them, is in the church. A white marble tablet, high up on the south wall of the chantry: **"Sacred to the memory of Augusta Hussits, who died at Welbourn 7th Aug aged 75. This tablet is erected by the family of the late Edward Disbrowe Esq. of Walton hall, Derbyshire, in grateful remembrance of the steady friendship they experienced from her during a period of 35 years."**
Canon Henry Sharp Disbrowe, Mr. Disbrowe's second son was curate at Fulbeck and used to officiate occasionally at Welbourn in 1846 etc. He became rector of Benington in Holland Lincs in 1869. He was one of the clergy present at the re-opening of the church in 1884 and gave the present font. He also gave a large harmonium, which was used up to the time the organ was built. He died in 1911 aged 87.
Herbert Disbrowe went out to India in 1846 and became a General in the Bombay Army. He died at Bernstine, Newton Abbot, Devon, in 1890.
"Miss Lizzie", Elizabeth Henrietta, the eldest daughter used to play the seraphine in church. Milly, the rectory cook, stood beside her to blow its one pedal with her foot. On Sunday afternoon after service, two choir-men would carry the instrument back to the rectory, where it lived during the week. Two poles were passed through its straps, where it was carried like the ark. They had practice in the rectory kitchen. The singing was thought to be very good and the tone of the seraphine was very sweet. (*A seraphine is an early- keyed wind instrument, a cross between a reed organ and an*

accordion. It makes its sound via the action of air being blown across metallic reeds.)

Miss Lizzie used to wear a flounced silk dress and shawl and bonnet. Sometimes she would wear a hat when calling on her friends, Mrs. Burtt and her little daughters. But she did not go about much and was rarely seen outside the church and rectory, for she was not very strong. She was away from home, ill, in 1851, and she passed away on Christmas Day. The sad news was brought to her father in church and the service was hastily concluded. His eldest son, John Henry had only been buried in the previous September. The whole village mourned with their rector. The burial service was taken by his friend the Rev. T.T. Penrose, vicar of Coleby. Elizabeth was buried in the chancel. She was only 38 years of age.

A picture of the church at this date is given in General Loft's notes of 1832. There were large, square cushioned pews where the reading desk and pulpit now stand. There would be no seats in the chancel, as at present, but only the 'furniture' mentioned by General Loft. The Harmonium was given by Canon Disbrowe when the seraphine was silent, also the clergy stalls and the Patron's pew.

Not often at Welbourn could the patron have occupied their pew, as they were very non-residential people. The service would not have to await their arrival, as was the case in those days in too many places. Nor would that happen, which is recorded at one church, where the bell had ceased and parson and people waited for the august presence which tarried, until at last the parson, having made up his mind, began the service in a loud voice to the assembled congregation. "When the wicked man…."and the clerk rose hastily in his seat to say, "Please Sir, he ain't come yet."

Old John Allen, the parish clerk in 1851, and for many years, used to rise in his seat after each publication of banns, to say heartily, "God speed them well." He became very infirm and

used to get about the church on two sticks, his long coat tails flapping as he walked.
In 1822 the clerk's salary had advanced from John Sharp's £2-10s – the same as it had been in 1708, to £5 a year. A note written on the second page of the old account book reads,
"An agreement entered into March 23rd 1822, at vestry to increase the salary of Israel Allen, then being clerk of the parish from £2-15s, his former salary to the sum of £5 a year, in consequence keeping the gutters of (sic) clear from rubbish and the inside clean.
Signed. William Kitton, Churchwarden."
No doubt there was more to do as the parish grew and the cost of living was rising. The day's wage for a labourer was 2/- and reckoned at that, the clerk's work for fifty-two Sundays, plus Good Friday and Christmas Day would come to 104/- = £5-4s a year. Besides the £5, which obtained for many years, 'they' had 14 shillings for "washing and repairing the linen."

The List of Parish Clerks for 200 years.

John Sharp, before 1735, buried 1776
James Sharp, 1776-1788.
Israel Allen, before 1822- 1848, buried 1866 aged 73
John Allen, 1850-1865, buried 1874 aged 88
William Allen, 1865- 1897, buried 1910 aged 84
William Ingamells, 1908-1909
William Musson, 1909-1915
William Franklin, 1915-July 1918
Charles Hall, July 1918- Dec. 1918, buried 1918
William Franklin, Dec 1918-Nov. 1919
Herbert Franklin, Nov. 1919-Sept. 1921
William Franklin, Sept 1921-Feb. 1932 buried Feb. 1932
Arthur Musson Junior, 1932-1933
Edmund Tasker 1933-

“1602, Welburne is among the list of churches and chauncells in good repayre and all mainteyned and in decensie kept.” (State of the church in the diocese of Lincoln in the time of Queen Elizabeth and James 1st.)
1832 “The church is very clean and handsome, the best conditioned village one I ever saw.” (General Loft MS)
The same has been said of this church at this present day “in consequence of keeping the inside clean.”
The clerk at Welbourn rings the ‘passing bell’—“Dead Man’s Music.” And other bells throughout the year. 25,000 Englishmen ring bells officially and regularly.
To the scribes who wrote the accounts of 1751-1849, Israel Allen and his fellow clerks were but an officer to be paid so much. “Paid the clerks salary for a yeare.” But to Mr. Rinder who wrote his own account, it was “Allen’s bill.” He knew men by their surnames.

Miss Harriet Disbrowe, four years younger than her sister, had her place by her father’s side. She had long been his ‘right hand’, taking classes and visiting in the school etc. For some time she taught the school monitress, Miss Elizabeth Wilson, who was a very popular pupil, in her room for an hour before breakfast and early tea would be brought to them there. Her father, on his way downstairs would knock at the door and wish them good morning. She was a very sweet lady and dearly loved. It was after her father’s death that she built the present Welbourn Hall. Her sale took place on 31st March 1871. She passed away in the South of England aged 82 in 1909.
Mr. Disbrowe had lost an eye through his horse running him into the low branch of a tree, just outside the gate on Bell Tree Green. He was very fond of animals and children and when the youngsters were pulling walnuts off the tree overhanging his gate, he would come out and point his stick at them, saying, “Shall I shoot you?” He sold one of his horses at one

time to a man in Lincoln, who asked if it was quiet in the stable. Mr. Disbrowe gave it a very good character, but when he reached home, his groom told him, that was the one thing the horse was NOT, quiet in the stable. Mr. Disbrowe at once got another horse and went all the way back to Lincoln and explained that he had been under a false impression. All the man said was "got a better offer Sir?"

He used to walk across from the little green door in his garden wall, to the church, in a black silk gown. He would come out for a funeral in a surplice, holding his book over his finger. He always RECITED the whole of the service and John Allen hobbled after him on his two sticks, putting them down when he used the spade to shovel some earth onto the coffin. Mr. Disbrowe was thus following "The Use of Lincoln." In the old days, when, "for the services themselves the Lincoln Clerks had to rely on their memory. (For in Lincoln Cathedral, the statutes required almost everything to be learnt by heart and allowed for parsonages to have books or lights in choir.)

Henry Disbrowe, as he always signed himself, started the night school. The population of the village was at its height 664 and 677 in 1861 and 1871.

This was the time of the great cattle plague-the Rinderpest. The Notices against the removal of cattle were posted on Mrs. Burtt's gates at North End and elsewhere. The children, seeing them used to sing:

"Then love y' neighbor as y' self,
But love y'self the best.
And pray to God to take away
This awful Rinderpest." *(Rinderpest, also cattle plague or steppe murrain, was an infectious viral disease of cattle, characterized by fever, oral erosions, diarrhea, lymphoid necrosis and high mortality. Death rates during outbreaks could be 100% high. Contact was through contaminated water, by air droplets and of direct contact.)*

They had to have a pass to move cattle. If one beast became infected, all on that farm had to be destroyed. The following year the schoolboys near Bourne, were asking whether the beef they were eating was infected?

The following account of what Mr. Disbrowe did is a copy of an MS, taken down as Miss Disbrowe told it to a friend, years afterwards. It has been kept as a notable instance of answered prayer:

"There was much distress in the land during the outbreak of Cattle Plague in 1865-6 and people were crying out for the appointment of a Day for Humiliation and Prayer, but time went on and no day was appointed. The delay greatly distressed Mr. Disbrowe, whose parish was suffering very severely. He went round to the clergy in the neighbourhood, to try to persuade them not to wait longer, but to fix a date to be observed amongst themselves. But they all with one consent made excuse. He then determined to keep such a day in his own parish. He, or some of his family, went to every house and farm to explain what was intended, and to beg all to come to church for special prayer and supplication. When the time came the church was crowded and the parishioners observed a day with great humility and earnestness. From that day, although the plague raged as badly as ever, and the cattle were dying on the farms, and in the fields around, not one single head died within the boundaries of that parish. At length, after long delay, the day for Publick Humiliation and Prayer was appointed, (March 21st 1866, Wednesday in Passion Week) and the old rector gathered his people together again. He told them that they must join heartily in the appointed services for the sake of all others who were in trouble. But for themselves they could only offer Praise and Thanksgiving to Almighty God for His great goodness towards them in the Prayer so mercifully heard and so graciously and wonderfully answered."

When Mr. Disbrowe lay dying in his room at the old rectory, he gave orders that some of the trees should be cut out, to enable him to see the first train pass up the line to Lincoln. He died in March 1867 aged 72, and though he could not be buried in his chancel, which was no longer his, since he ceased to be rector, he was put as near as possible to his child. Outside, where the morning sun shines, and where his tombstone is to this day.
On his tablet in the chancel are some words, spoken during a sermon, in which he had expressed a wish to have placed there. The tablet reads: **Sacred to the Memory of Rev. John Disbrowe, rector of Welbourne, who died 24th March 1867, aged 72 years. In my Father's House are many mansions. John X1V. Reader! One moment stop and think that I am in Eternity and you are on the brink."**

Mr. Leslie-Melville came as a bachelor. His sisters the Misses Leslie-Melville of Branston Hall, often staying with him.
Mr. Disbrowe's rectory was a very old house, with small mullioned windows and 'pudding pie' roof. Mr. Melville determined to pull it down and build a new house on the higher ground. Robert Askey Daws, his gardener, demolished the old house. Its walls were double, being anything from 18 inches to 2 feet thick, the middle filled with rubble, loose and small stones, which poured out of any hole he made. He collected it and burnt it and made the 'lime' for the new building. The dovecote was then standing in the yard…'a little house to itself' but it must soon after have been pulled down.
Mr. Daws drew up a plan for the new house. He was then at the advanced age of 84. The house had 3 chimneys and old Daws grumbled that 'he had the sweeping of 'em.' The new rectory was called Welbourn Place, the front overlooking Bell Tree Green.
The rector married Georgina Wardlow-Ramsey in June 1869 and brought home his bride amidst great rejoicing. Triumphal

arches were erected all along the street. The horses were taken out of the carriage and ‘it was brought in by many willing hands.’ The school children had contributed bouquets for their arch and they were up at the rectory gates, “assisting in the cheering”. The Sunday School Feast had been held at the New Rectory on 10th September 1868 and very enjoyable choir suppers were held there from time to time. The rector and his wife took a keen interest in the life of the parish.
Mr. Leslie-Melville held the prebendary stall of Leicester St. Margaret in Lincoln Cathedral since 1897. The stall is the third on the south side up from the right hand corner, as you enter the choir gates under the organ. The Latin titles are the psalms for the 11th day, Morning Prayer. The carving on the miserere is the Adoration of the Magi, very much mutilated. The heads of Joseph and the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Child have been cut off. Also the lifted hands and the head of the angel with the harp, but the ox and ass are still below and the three wise men and their gifts.
The term miserere meant the shallow seat on the top of the carving, which was all the monks had to sit on. The seat is hinged and if the occupant becomes unwary during the lengthy services of the pre-reformation time, the whole seat came forward-----with unpleasant results!

Canon Leslie-Melville was a constant visitor at the Day School and took a great interest in all the children. One of the children was the late F.M. Sir William Robertson, baronet. See P.214
It was on 27th July 1871 that the advowson of the living was sold, together with the Marquis of Ripon’s estate in Welbourn, at the Saracen’s Head, Lincoln for £133,000. Mr. Alexander Leslie-Melville of Branston Hall, and others, eventually became the Patron.
“Tithe Division, Welbourn. The corn rents, which are vested in the Governors of Queen Anne’s Bounty in trust for the

benefice, arise under the Welbourn Enclosures Act of 1760." This act recites that the rector was entitled to all great and small tithes arising within the parish of Welbourn cum Sapperton. It vested the tithes arising from the South Heath in George Hobart (the Lord of the Manor and sole proprietor of the Heath) and awarded an allotment of land to the rector in lieu thereof. The act also extinguished the tithes arising from the North Heath and awarded a further allotment of land to the rector in compensation. The corn rents were awarded in lieu of the tithes of the old enclosures and are charged at the rate of 1/- per acre.

A letter from the board of Agriculture and Fisheries states that, "the tithes of certain lands (in Welbourn cum Sapperton) were commuted for tithe rent charge under the Tithe Act in 1850."

Canon Leslie-Melville died at the age of 70 and was buried in the N.E. of the churchyard. There is a window to his memory in the Chapter House at Lincoln. It is the last but one on the right hand side over the seats.

There is a brass tablet in the Welbourn church, which reads:-

"In loving memory of Frederick Abel Leslie-Melville and of Hon. A. Leslie-Melville, Branston Hall, Canon of Lincoln Cathedral. And Rector of this Parish for Forty Years. Who entered in to Rest April 14th 1908 in His 70th year." A text follows.

On the porch gates:-

"1867 in Memory of F.A. Leslie-Melville 1908"

He held the curacy of Goodnestone, Kent for three years and for about a year he was at Livermore, Suffolk. It was the incumbent of this latter place whom he asked to preach, on a special occasion! An account of his restoration of the church in 1884 is given under the heading Restorations.

Canon Leslie-Melville was rural dean of Longoboby 1907 and a member of the Diocesan Board of Missions. He was an untiring worker in the cause of Foreign Missions and his

second daughter was a missionary for years. Mrs. Leslie-Melville died in July 1922.

W. Hugh M. Hancock came in August 1908. He and his wife, Cicely, daughter of the late Rev. Neville and Lady Lilias Sherbrooke, married in 1907. They had one little girl. They found the rectory much too big and expensive to run. It had been enlarged with the addition of a south wing by Canon Leslie-Melville, so they set about disposing of it with the necessary consent and building a smaller house. "The Rectory" was sold on 21st July 1910 to J.H. Bainton, esquire for £3,000 and the work put in hand.

(Following Mr. Horace Bainton, Tom and Marjorie Burness bought it. They had no children so passed it on to their niece, Bridget Good, who later married, for a very short time, a Mr. Vere-Lawrie. She then built Pond House on the eastern edge of the property. She sold Welbourn Place to Fran and Reg Brealey in the early 70's. They sold it to Tom and Steph Thorne who remain there into the 2020's)

The site chosen for the new rectory was the west corner of the Glebe field, the Beck field. The garden was laid out first. Messrs Scorer and Gamble, Lincoln, were the architects and the present rectory (1933) was built for the sum of £2,324-16-5 and the interest on the remainder was added to the income of the living. Their second little girl was born there. Later Mr. Hancock felt drawn to offer for work abroad and in December 1912 he resigned the living to go to Japan. He afterwards acted as chaplain in the Great War but was invalided home.
He held more than one living, including Leadenham, Lincs. but his health gave out and they went to Switzerland, where Mrs. Hancock died, a young woman. He was left with four little children, 3 daughters and one son, Michael. He came home and on the 17th November 1926 he passed to his rest at

Southbourne-on-Sea. He was buried at Ropley, Hants. He took his degree at Christ's College, Cambridge and went to Wycliffe Hall, Oxford. He was curate of Holy Trinity, Bournemouth. A very gifted preacher; he was a man beloved by all. Then his voice gave out and he could no longer preach so he studied Braille, hoping he might, if time were given to him, help blind people to read.
In the years after his bereavement and during his illness, he manifested steadfast faith and courage. His beautiful life will live on in the hearts of his friends, who will remember him with deep affection. His second daughter, Joyce, born at Welbourn 1912, married Mr. Francis Fane, the second son of Colonel W.V.R. Fane of Fulbeck Hall. Fulbeck, nr, Grantham.

(They had four children, Susan Cicely who married Lieut. Col John Dymoke, the Queen's Champion, Rosemary and then twins, Julian and Belinda.)

The Hyndman Trustees, an Evangelical Trust, had acquired the advowson of the living. They appointed Rev. Jonathon S. Puckridge, who was instituted to the church of Welbourn on 21st Feb. 1913. Educated at King's College, London, Hertford College Oxford, and Wycliffe Hall M.A. 1878. He worked in a lay capacity for 12 months, being under age for ordination.
He was ordained in 1880 by the Bishop of Oxford and appointed to the curacy of Wooburn, Bucks. Later he went to Holy Trinity, St. Philip and St. James, Bristol and to Swindon Parish church, Wilts. In 1889 he was instituted to the living of Castlemartin, Pembrokeshire, in the gift of Lord Cawdor, where he worked until 1913.
He married in 1889, Elizabeth Helen Owen; there were three children. The only son Cyril V. Noel went straight from the school O.T.C. into the war, August 1914. He was reported wounded and missing, believed killed on the night of 21-22 July 1916, outside Peronne. He was in his 21st year. He

enlisted as a Private, took a commission in the 1/5th Gloucestershire Regiment and became Battalion Bomb Officer. See P. 146
The vicar's wife passed to her rest on December 6th 1920.
Mr. Puckridge was keen on the social as well as the church life of the village and he gave regular religious instruction in the Day School. He was a member of the Diocesan Board of Missions, Secretary to the Deanery and rural Decanal Conference, for overseas work.
On July 24th1914 most of the Glebe lands were sold by auction; only the Beck field and a field west of the church yard being kept.
The auctioneers were Messrs. Ferris and Puckridge of Wilton, Wilts and London. The property offered was in 8 lots and the whole was sold for the sum of £6,860. Which was invested and added to the value of the living.
Half and hour before the commencement of the sale, the rector and his brother, who was the auctioneer, entered the saleroom at Lincoln. It was nearly full, another sale being in progress. The rector watched the door as the time passed. Not a single person entered. A few minutes before the hour, two men came in. How sad, after all the advertising and trouble. But it soon transpired that the room had been packed, not for the previous sale but for this one and business was brisk from start to finish.
Mr. Puckridge resigned the living on 17th Oct. 1933 and went to live at Branston, being licensed by the Bishop as a General Diocesan Preacher.

The Rev. Paddison was appointed by the Hyndman trustees, and instituted on 11th December 1933. M.A. Camb. (3rd Class Classical Tripos). He was ordained in 1901 by the Bishop of Southwell. Curate of Southwell Cathedral and of St. Peter's, Mansfield, Notts. Vicar of Blidworth 1914-1921: Mount Somers, Diocese of Christ church NZ, 1921-1924. Kaiapoi

1924-1927. Gore 1927-1932. On coming home he became rector of Elston, Notts, for one year before coming to Welbourn.

(Please note names of vicars following Rev. Paddison and up to the 2020's are noted on pages 20/21.
In the 1990's, in the time of Rev. Bryan Bennett, a new rectory was built in Dycote Lane. The red brick one next to Bell Tree Green was considered by the Diocese to be no longer suitable. Archdeacon Justine now lives in the Bell Tree Green 'Old' Rectory.

Rev.Alan John Megahey
Rector of Welbourn etc 2001-2011

The Rev.Alan died suddenly after a short illness, on 19th August 2011. He was only 67 and the Lincoln Diocese realized that they had lost, not only a much-loved priest and wonderful companion, but a scholar too.
Alan was a proud Ulsterman but it was in England and Zimbabwe that he made his mark as schoolmaster and priest. He was educated at the Royal School, Dungannon and went on to read history at Selwyn College, Cambridge. He later was awarded a Ph.D.
As a charismatic and enthusiastic schoolmaster, he joined the staff of Wrekin Collage in 1967. He married Elizabeth Jeffrey and in 1970 Alan was ordained Deacon and assistant chaplain. In 1972 he moved to Cranleigh School as head of history and then housemaster.
Alan and his family then moved to Zimbabwe. He became Rector of the largest independent boys school, Peterhouse, in Marondera. This was the dreadful time of the farm seizures and Alan with his vision of improving educational

standards for all, and with his outgoing personality, won the admiration of both white farmers and many of the government ministers. Alan and Elizabeth's only son, was killed in a bizarre accident at the school. He was only 13. Mr. Robert Mugabe was one of the first to offer condolences. Under Alan Megahey's tutelage Peterhouse became one of the most respected schools in Southern Africa.

In 1993 the Megaheys returned to England and he served as Chaplain to Uppingham School. He wrote several erudite and interesting books between 1998 and 2005.

In 2001 he was instituted as Rector of Beckingham, Brant Broughton, Stragglethorpe, Leadenham and Welbourn. Over the next few years he threw himself into various local projects, including fighting successfully to have All Saints, Beckingham taken off the 'redundant' list and leading the restoration of the Pugin ceiling at Leadenham. He masterminded the organ appeal in Welbourn and led a restoration programme in Brant Broughton.

He was an inspired man 'on a mission' so it was with horror that he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 2010. Despite the debilitating illness he went ahead with planned exhibitions in his churches to mark the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible. As Rural Dean, Diocesan Chaplain to the Mothers Union and Chaplain to the High Sheriff he was to be sadly and irretrievably missed. He left his widow Elizabeth and a daughter Ann, who will always remember Alan as a very special husband, father and man.)

Chapter 111

The Building Through the Ages.

Welbourn Parish Church, St. Chad, co. Lincoln. Wapentake (hundred) of Boothby Graffoe. Deanery Longoboby, now Loveden.

(A Wapentake is a subdivision in some northern and midland counties corresponding to 'a hundred' in other counties. The Deanery of Longoboby covered 21 villages near Lincoln, including Welbourn and the villages north up to Lincoln… Navenby, Boothby Graffoe, Harmston, Waddington etc, and to the east Metheringham, Billinghay, Scopwick, Washingborough, Canwick etc.)

The tower is the oldest part of the present church, 12th century and must have belonged to an older building. A glance at the church, inside, and in a good light, will show a pent-house pitch of an old roof on the east wall of the tower and over the present chancel arch. This would belong to the older church to which the chronicles refer. Evidently it was there before they built the arcades and the clerestory, the rood-loft and its continuation.

"Lincolnshire is a county which has more pre-conquest work to show than any other. Of the Saxon churches, which are dotted so thickly about Lincolnshire, 30 out of about 2 score have western towers. Most examples possess as their distinguishing feature, the double belfry opening, with mid-wall shaft. Accordingly the possession of a plain, un-buttressed tower of this particular form of belfry opening, gives it a Saxon character. Welbourn has this.

"In a Lincolnshire tower of the early 15th century, that of Welbourn, inter-buttressing and subsequent restoration, have failed to obliterate the conservative love of the builders for the

traditional proportions and the plainness of detail that went with them."

These towers were formally the central portion of the church. Hough-on-the-Hill has an exceptionally large ground space for its tower. On entering them one is struck with the sense of age, or perhaps of inhabited-ness. They seem to have been employed for other purposes, than merely the accommodation of bells.

Many of them have internal fittings, which seem to show that they were used as a dwelling place. As at Welbourn many of them have a doorway, now built up, opening a couple of feet above the floor level of the first story of the belfry. If the sacristan had his lodging there, he would be able to view the altar with its valuables below. There was probably a musician's gallery at the west end, for there are still the two carved corbels, projecting from the wall below. The square headed doorway and the broad stone staircase of 60 steps leading to the belfry, plus its solidarity and strength, as well as its construction, all speak of constant use.

The doorway over the arch would also enable the ringers to see the Elevation of the Host and ring the Sanctus bell, before the present, decorated Bell-cote was built. It would also afford the sacristan his coign of vantage. The later day ringing chamber, sometime bell-chamber, bell-house, or steeple house, would be now and then his lodging for the night as well as for the day.

The church to which this tower belongs, seems to have been entirely re-built and is said to be a very handsome structure. The spire, 15th century, is of the Decorated period, crocketted and buttressed, the ribs of it converging slightly but noticeably to the top. The base is supported by a light flying buttress, rising from a pinnacle at each corner of the tower. Many people turn off the high road to get a nearer view of its somewhat unusual shape. The vane at the summit has lost his tail. Can he still say?

"I never crow.
But stand to show
Where winds do blow."

Parts of the octagonal pillars of the nave may possibly have belonged to the earlier building. The capitals are all molded and two of the bases in the south aisle are carved. The base of the extreme N.W. pillar is different from all the rest.
The south aisle and porch which we see today, were built in 1363 by John de Welborn, the Treasurer of Lincoln Minster, when he founded his chantry to the 'Blessed Mary in Welborn.' He lived in Welbourn and no doubt had a large house and property, as he took his name from this place between Lincoln and Grantham. The chantry "was founded by "John Welborne, clerk, with the intent that one chaplain perpetually should celebrate Divine Service in the church there."
In 1365, John de Welborn, the Treasurer, gave 12 messuages, one shop and two gardens…of the clear value of £22-13-4 for the support of two chantry chaplains….one in the church of Lincoln, at the altar of John the Baptist, where the mass of the Blessed Virgin is accustomed to be solemnly celebrated. Another is the church of Welborn for the good estate of Edward 111; the said John during life and for the souls of the same and their progenitors. Henry late Duke of Lancaster and Isabel, his consort. Also Thomas de Welborne, brother of the said John. John and Galfred, sons of Thomas de Welborne and Richard de Witteswell and others. Also for the Kings ancestors and heirs. The Lincoln chaplain was to have £5 per annum. The Welborn chaplain £4-13-4. The founder was the well-known treasurer of Lincoln Cathedral Church.
The chantry priest of Welbourn in 1450 was Sir Philip Welton, priest, by collation of the bishop for this turn of the chantry, in honour of the Blessed Mary, to the parish church of Welborn, founder, vacant. Instituted 10 April 1450, at Sleaford.

In 1526 Sir Thomas Kychyn was chantry priest and also in 1548, of the age of 80 years, who has no other promotion and is by no means fit to serve the cure, He has and takes the issues and profits of the lands and possessions, following for his salary.

Lands etc by the year	£5-6-8
Reprises etc	£0-0-5
Clear Value	£5-6-3
Goods, chattels etc beyond one silver chalice, weighing 6oz	£0-0-17

It was not necessarily on account of age that the old priest was stated to 'be by no means fit to serve.' Men who held the same position but were comparatively young, 30 or so, were sometimes returned as 'by no means fit to serve' and it is thought to have been on the score of learning, and that Lincoln, the sole diocese to make this remark about its priests, at this enquiry of 1526, set a high standard for its clergy.

Chantry of Welborn 1526

Thomas Kytchyn, chaplain of the Chantry of the Blessed Mary, a house.	£0-13-4
The monies go to the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral of Lincoln And amount to	£4-13-4
Full Value	£5-6-8

Outgoings

Rent payable to the Duke of Norfolk for the house per Annum	£0-0-5
and so the clear value is	£5-6-3
of which a tenth part is	£0-10-7

He received a yearly pension of £4-2-4, so he must have lived to a great age.

John de Welborn's chantry chapel has been very much restored and little of what must have been the beautiful original, remains. The double piscina is there on the right of where the altar stood.

"The Double Piscina, which is found in some of the older churches in the country, was probably provided for the ceremonial cleansings at the mass, the priest's hands, the ablutions of the vessels."

The cavity under the window was probably meant for the Founder's Tomb, but the stone carving has all gone.

A well-preserved Founder's Tomb can be seen in the chancel of Navenby Church and a recumbent effigy in the north aisle wall of St. Mary le Wigford, Lincoln.

There is no evidence to prove where John de Welborn was buried. He was, besides being Treasurer and Prebendary of Asgarby, Lincoln, Canon of Salisbury and York. (See his life in " Great Men") and it is possible that he was buried at either place. However it would seem fitting for his burial to take place in his own chantry chapel at Welbourn. Or maybe in the Cathedral at Lincoln, which he loved so well. His will was proved at York in 1381 before the Chapter, but it is not to be found.

It has been pointed out that the double piscina at Welbourn is too plain- too old- to have been the work of John de Welborn in 1363. The founding of the chantry did not necessarily mean that any building was done, or that there was any alteration made to the fabric, beyond the addition of a screen to enclose the chapel. It meant endowment. It seems by this and the mark of the old roof of the south porch, below the present 1363 one, that John de Welborn took over the existing south aisle, an older chantry and made it into his own chantry chapel. He built a screen and put in window tracery of the period. A glance at the south window outside, over the Founder's Tomb,

will show that this tracery has been inserted at a later date, than that at which the windows themselves were made. The marks of the screen can be seen on the pillar.
The dedication of the altar, which belonged to the double piscina, must, even at that date, have been so old that it was lost in the mists of ages. The canopied and crocketted niches on the south porch, outside and the fine stone carving, follow the same style as John's work in wood and stone carving at Lincoln. But he left untouched the old plain carving he found inside.
In a good afternoon light it is still possible to see all that is left of the colour that once covered the walls. Half way up the south side of the first pillar in the chantry chapel and in the niche inside the porch. The two richly carved brackets over the east end of the 'Ladye Chappell', held the images, which guarded the Sanctuary of 1363.The scraps of old glass in the very top of the south window, are all that is left of the stained glass, which filled those large windows, shedding rich colored lights on everything within.
All the evidence of the chantry which once existed in the north aisle, is the marks of its screen on the pillars by the organ and the note by archdeacon Bonney, in 1845, that there was a 'niche at the N.E. end of the nave' as well as the piscina in the south aisle.

The practice of dedicating chapels to the Blessed Virgin was introduced into this country during the 12th century. This was shortly after the monastic orders had gained the upper hand over the parochial clergy. They were founded, partly to satisfy the desire of those times for the veneration of the person of the Mother of our Lord and to accommodate the increased number of clergy. Also, because the founders believed in the invocation of Saints and they were anxious to secure for themselves and those dear to them, the Intercessions of the Mother of our Lord. So they founded these chapels in her

honour. They solicited her good offices on their behalf by frequent services and prostrations before her image, which occupied the place of honour above ‘our Ladye’s Altar.’ She was Crowned as the Queen of Heaven and profusely adorned with splendid jewels and exquisite embroidery.

These chapels were also used as chantries, where masses were said daily. This was to secure the release of the souls of the faithful from the flames of purgatory, through which it was supposed they must pass; the prayers of St. Mary, the Virgin, being especially efficacious.

In the founding of a chantry, the founder oft times built himself a tomb space and for others of his family, or the nobles. In the case of this church, the gentry desired burial close to the altar of the Blessed Mary in Welbourn. Masses offered there were for the repose of the souls of the founder, and others but also might include them. The endowment was in perpetuity, not, as was sometimes the case, ‘for 21 years’ or ‘to sing to me a yeare.’

Existing chapels of our Lady have sometimes been used as schoolrooms etc….or left to utter decay. But here, being an integral part of the church itself, the fabric has been kept up, though all the ornaments have disappeared. There would probably have been paintings on the walls, portraying scenes in the life of the Mother of our Lord and scenes from the Gospel story painted in glass.

The price of the obit…a mass said here on the anniversary of the death of the founder was 40/-. In many places it was only 2/6. 40/- was the price at St. Paul’s and it would mean, therefore, a richer ceremonial, many lighted tapers and torches, a solemn requiem and mass and perhaps assistant clergy and choristers. An ‘afternoon peal’ was rung, for the founder was no mean man, but the munificent Treasurer of Lincoln Cathedral.

The North door at this time was used for processions. Lines of clergy and lay-clerks, singing a solemn psalm in Lent, or the Litany as it was intended to be sung, would pass, with slow and measured step through the altar and through the screen, then out of one of the doors and in again at another. Always on Good Friday, with the altar and the figures on the Rood, draped in black, a solemn procession passed about the church, swinging their censors and leading their people in Latin prayers of penitence and preparation for the great festival of Easter.

On the festival itself, the procession of the Host was formed with lights and coloured vestments. The Sacrament, enclosed in a Tabernacle, was borne between lines of kneeling worshippers and returned to the altar.

Before 1380, John de Welborn, gave to Lincoln Cathedral a bier to be used in a procession of this kind. The original spelling and capitals are used thus:-

“Feretra (biers) in primis (first) one great Fert (bier) silver and gilte, with one crose Iles and one Steple yn the mydyll and one crose yn the toppe with xx pynaccles and an ymage of owr lady yn one end and an ymage of seynt hugh yn the other and having yn length dim 1 yard and one ynch and hyt (it) ys sett yn table of wood and a thing Pyx yn the mydle to put yn the sacrament when hyt ys borne weying xvijxx unces and one, of the gyfte of John de Welborne Tressuror wanting a pynacle” (one of the 20 pinnacles was broken) (All the above is from the inventories of Plate and Vestments etc belonging to the Cathedral Church of the Blessed Mary of Lincoln.)

Roods were early introduced in to England. That at Battle Abbey, Sussex, dates from 1095. The Rood Loft at Welbourn must have been a very high and well-used one, judging by the upper doorway and well-worn step. The spiral stone staircase in the thickness of the wall is a good one. As usual that is the only evidence left now of the existence of the Rood Loft.

On the beam on each side of the Cross, there were the images of St. Mary and St. John and sometimes the image of the patron saint of the church. It was also called 'the candle beam' and people bequeathed 20d or so 'for a light'. Claypole church still has the hooks which held 'the veil' when the images were draped during Lent.

The chancel of Welbourn church today (1933) is utterly unlike those times and the chancel of 1832 was not good enough. Archdeacon Bonney reported in 1845 that the chancel is said to have fallen in the 17th century. This is the one Gervase Holles saw in 1634. 44 houses were blown down in the Great Storm of 1666. Perhaps the church suffered so much that the chancel 'fell' in consequence. No mention of it is made in the brief of 1667 but it may have been the mediaeval that belonged to the Rood Loft. Gervase Holles mentions only 3 windows. The East, the S. window of the chancel and an upper N. window, with the arms of "Beaumont, some time lord of the town," lord of the manor 1312-1462. But whether this was so or not, the chancel of a church such as "Welleburn" would have been beautiful in the olden days.

The will of Nicholas Row, the elder, of Welbourn, gentleman, sick of body, orders his body to be buried in the chantry choir in the parish church of Welbourn, dated 1639. Men made their wills, sometimes only a few days before their death. On 21st October 1617, Humphrey Locton of Welborne, husbandman, made his will. He was buried on 30th October. He wished to be laid in Welborne churchyard. He left to his son, Joseph. £3. To his daughter, Frances £6, within 3 years. Residue to his wife, Hellenor executrix. Supervisors, Timothie Webster of Welborne, gentleman and Joseph West of same, husbandman. Testator signs his mark. Proved 21st November 1617.

Members of the same family Audley, Rudd, Rowe and Baron Brittain were all buried in the chantry choir, and some of their flat tombstones can be seen today. The bequeathing of chantry house and lands in 1607, by Anthony Audley, gentleman,

implies that he owned it. He probably sat in the chantry choir. It was still called by the old name and was a place in which it was desirable to be buried at this date, despite being after the suppression of the chantries in 1547. But perhaps men spoke of it, as they knew it in their youth. The old chantry priest had been pensioned off. The services would then be held by Mr. Francis Trigge and his curates. Also by Mr. John Stoneham, in the chancel of the church.
John Bugge of Long Leadenham, in 1529, departed this life and bequeathed "to John Wodeshend of Welborne a rosyt cote (rust coloured coat) with a worstyd dooblyt."
It was the custom to choose the place of burial in those days. One man desired to be buried in "the most honoured place in the chancel, which I shall choose for myself in my life time." In contradiction to this, a knight left his best horse for mortuary fees, a gift to the church, but no armour or anything to mark his rank. He left £100 to the poor.
Another will of this date is the testament of John Thomson of Brandon 1529 with bequests to chapels, to the church of Hough, to "our Lady Warke of Lincoln 4d." To Sir Ronald, curyt of Welburn 40d. Renold - Reginald Wadington curate 1526." Our Lady Warke meant bequests to the repairs or services of the Minster.

Sunday Shaving was forbidden in 1400.

Shaking hands - the handclasp, meant that one went unarmed, in 1500.

Before the Reformation in 1536, there were no pews or seats in the churches. People knelt or stood on the rush-strewn floor. There would be a few benches round the walls for the old and infirm among the people. This gave rise to the saying "the weakest go to the wall." The meaning of this has been so grievously twisted today. Many pews were set up in chantries

and chapels and the patron of the living had a pew, often in the chancel. But for the most part the floor was open.
The Holy Table was in the middle of the church then, but Archbishop Laud, in the 17th century ordered that the Holy Table be moved to the centre of the chancel arch. It was to be at the East end and some rails should be made before the altar, near 1 yard in height. It should be so set with pillars that dogs may not get through. The high, close, open rails still found in some churches, have gone from Welbourn. A portion of them was in use as a handrail to the pulpit steps, before the restoration of 1884.
An example of the spoliation of the churches, which happened in 1556 to Welbourn and other places, may be given from "Belton by Grantham."
"It'm (item) a Rood loft taken downe and p'te (part) of it given to poor folks and other p'te occupied aboute the mending of the pinfold geates and the church-yard geates.
It'm one hand-bell broken the start, (handle) and sold to Johnne Chamberlain and he hath made a mortar thereof.
It'm the Rood Marie and John with a picture of St. Peter (Patron Saint) defacid and burnid in the p'nce (presence) of the prisheners yesterday being the vii of this April 1566 by the church wardens.
It'm one vestm't, one albe, sold unto Robert Warren, churchwarden who defacid it and thereof made necessarie things for his children. Quishions for his house and hanginges for his bedd.
Also: one Rood Loft w'ch wee have bestowid aboute the repayringe of the church seats and Fen gates A iij Eliz.
It'm one hallie (holy) water stock broken in pieces."
So, such things were done thirty years after the Reformation in this part of Lincolnshire.
In place of the Rood, the Royal Arms were set up over the chancel arch, as was done at Welbourn in the early days of Queen Elizabeth.

The South Porch of Welbourn church has been well described by Edmund Sharp, " the most attractive feature of the church, however, is the South Porch, which with its inner doorway and outer arch, its good proportions and its low canopied and crocketted buttresses is of excellent design throughout." The niches are empty now and the heads of the Trinity above the arch, cut off and carvings generally mutilated. The Trinity is about 1380. These carvings were a cult of the Black Prince and were introduced after the Black Death. It represents God the Father showing forth the Son, holding the crucifix between his knees. The right hand raised in blessing is cut off, as is the Dove from the right shoulder. The marks made by the chisel show high up on the background. Another, something like this Trinity is to be seen at St. Helens, Brant Broughton.

The niche over the inner door most probably held an effigy of St. Chad, the Patron Saint.

From the stone seats up, the porch had, before the restoration of 1884, plaster all over the walls. This has preserved the mediaeval carvings on the stone. Well is it that the plaster has been removed, revealing the good stone of which the church is built.

The wrought iron gates at the entrance were given in memory of Canon Leslie Melville in 1908, forty years rector of this parish. They were made by Mr. Coldron of Brant Broughton and are of fine design.

Mr. Mayhew suggests that the carved head outside on the left may be that of our Saviour, - under the Trinity.

These deep, porches over the principal entrance to the church had many uses in the olden days. Our Prayer Book says, in the 3rd rubric in the Form of Solemnization of Matrimony, "the persons to be married shall come into the body of the church." That is because marriages used to take place at the church door. Edward 1 and Margaret of France were married at the door of Canterbury Cathedral on September 9th 1299. (Their

statues and that of Queen Eleanor, his first wife, are on the South front of Lincoln Minster.)
People were sometimes married in the church porch and banns of marriage were published there. It was the public place, where all sorts of business was transacted, rents were paid out and ecclesiastical courts frequently held. The Coroner sat there…not in the inn. School was often held there and there would be a stoup for holy water. "a stoup set out at ye church gate" of Welbourn cost £0-5-10d in 1768. It is not there today.
We still have evidence of the fact that the church porch was considered to be the most prominent and public place in the parish, by the posting of notices of general interest, lists of voters, Income Tax assessment and rating and valuation lists, as well as church notices.
What costumes have brushed those stone seats through the centuries! There are perhaps pictures of some of them to be found in the 14th century carvings. There is the long shoe of 1327. In 1377 the pointed toes reached their greatest length and were fastened up to the gaiter by chains of gold or silver. The shoes were plain scarlet to match the hose. (Stockings) There is an elaborate headdress of about the same date as the long shoe and some very well cutout initials…I.H.S. One of the carvers seems to have been a nautical gentleman, as high up there is a beautiful little ship, with her sails set and her flag flying. It is the Union Jack without the 'union', before the flag of Scotland was joined to the flag of England in 1603. There is another ship and some rough carvings, which may be buoys with a light atop. And there are several gibbets!
The custom of Churching dates from the Middle Ages and it used to be done at or in the church porch. The words, 'decently appareled' in the rubric refer to the time when it was thought unbecoming for a woman to come to church in the elaborate headdress, which was then the fashion. Some churches provided a veil – a churching cloth, of fringed, white

damask. Two wives at Boston offended by being churched without their veils in 1607.
The Mass or Scratch Dial, commonly found on ancient country churches, here is quite plain and is on the right hand buttress of the porch facing south. There seems to be a bit of the stylon or pointer left, but the hole has been filled up with concrete. These Dials are very interesting and a lot has been written about them. They do not occur on Cathedrals or town churches but only where there was no public timepiece. They told the time for saying mass.
"Early' 9A.M. or 9.30"
Yerly when the day can sprynge,
A priest, he dud a masse synge. (Wordsworth)

The nave and aisles of Welbourn church are good Late Decorated, built by John de Welburn, the munificent Treasurer of Lincoln Cathedral in about 1360.
The continuation of the Rood loft staircase, leads out through a small old door, on to the leads of the nave and it seems possible that there had been an ambulatory round the clerestory, at sometime. A stone staircase is not made for nothing. It is possible today to get a good view from the top of the nave and a corresponding small door leads down into the tower staircase. They paid 2/- for "mending the door on the leads," in 1771.
The two doors of the church, south and west have the sockets in the stone jambs, into which the ends of the oak beam, which secured the door in the olden days, were fitted. There is a charge in the old book of accounts of 7s.6d for " a large lock and key for ye church door, 1757." It was probably for the one on the west door, as there is no lock on the big south door. Only the old wooden wedge!
The north door was closed before 1832. It was sometimes called The Devil's Door. They opened it at a christening and bade the Devil go outside. The following is from the first

Prayer Book of Edward V1, in the Service of Public Baptism. After the signing of the cross on the child, but before its Baptism, “Then let the Priest lokying upon the chydren saye, I commande thee unclean Spirite, in the name of the Father, of the Sonne and of the Holy Ghost, that thou come out and departe from these infantes, whom our Lord Jesus Christe hath vouchessued, to call to His holy Baptisme to be made a member of his body and of his holy congregation. Therefore thou cursed spirite rembre thy sentence, rembre the iudgemente, rembre the daye to be at hande, wherein thou shalt burne in fyre everlasting prepared for thee and they Angles. And presume not hereafter to exercise any tyrannye towards these infantes, whom Christe hath bought with His precious bloud and by this his holy Baptisme calleth to be of his flocke.” Then they shut the north door and opened the south, that the good might come in and bless the children.
The carved heads, terminals of the dripstones over the north door, are much weathered. They and the arch are, like much else of the north side, smaller and of less fine workmanship. The old idea that the north was less blessed than the south!

The inner side of the south door has the stone moulding which runs round the chantry chapel, passing over it. Outside there is a triple arch, with the carved heads of a knight and his lady. She wears a wimple. There are marks on the wall above the door showing where the original roof of the porch ran. It was much lower than it is today.

The west door has a wide span of the arch and that of the window above, matches it. But the tracery of this window is probably the newest bit of the church, (except, of course the chancel) and is of about 1500. There are traces of a former window.
“From the eastern gable is projected on corbels, a very pretty canopy for the sanctus bell” beneath a handsome gable cross.

Outside, under the bell-cote can be seen the holes through which the cords passed and the grooves they made in pulling the bell. The eastern gable of the nave was a convenient position for it. The ringer would be able to see and hear all the service at the altar. Perhaps people working at their ordinary occupations, like those in Millais 'Angelus,' would hear the bell, pause a moment and give a thought to higher things.

Someone has written, and it is true of Welbourn, "many of them (the bell-cotes) are works of most beautiful art in themselves. Particularly English, we possess more numerous examples than any other nation. They are an interesting history of the ritual of our English church."

It is very fortunate that there is an MS. Account of this church, written in 1832, by Lieut. General John Henry Loft. He made extensive notes on Lincolnshire churches and churchyards chiefly between 1825 and 1835. He was born at Grainthorpe in about 1767. He married in 1794 Elizabeth, daughter of Gilbert Far of Caister and Elizabeth, his wife who was the daughter and heiress of Captain Henry Wallis of Healing, Lincolnshire. They had 18 children. One of then inherited the Healing estate and took the surname of Wallis.

Loft entered the army, being Captain in 1794; Colonel in the Grenadier Guards in 1801; served in the Peninsular War and made a Lieut. General in 1813. He was MP for Grimsby in 1807. He presented the Lincolnshire Address to George 111 on his Jubilee in 1810. He lived for several years at Caenby Hall, Lincoln and for a long period at Louth.

His MSs were unfortunately dispersed but he seems to have visited churches all over Lincolnshire. He died in July 1849 and is buried at Marsh Chapel beside his ancestors.

Architectural knowledge was but little known in his day, so he does not give the style or date of a building, but used to take all the dimensions of a church and full copies of epitaphs. The following is a copy of his MS.

“Notes on Welbourn church continued, March 9th 1832. (Earlier notes lost.) The church inside consists of a steeple, nave with N and S aisles and chancel. South porch, which and the one (ie door) at the West end are the only entrances. The nave is very handsomely ceiled and corniced, the side aisles are very neately underdrawn. Chancel is also underdrawn but the ceiling of it wants taking down, being too low. This occasions an echo in the church so as to prevent the clergyman being heard distinctly, owing to the height of the nave, which is about 39 ft. Rise one very low step into the chancel and another within the rails, which go across. The chancel is divided from the nave by a pointed arch, resting on light circular pillars, 24ft high and 14ft wide. Chancel is 18ft high, has a good stone floor in which is a large blue slab,

“Mr. Francis Steevens, late Rector of this church. Aged 35 Years. deceas’d Septemb: ye 16th 1709.” Upon a large plate of Brass, inserted in the same stone is in Old Black Letter, **“Ye shal of your charitie praie for the Sowle of Nicholas Baylye late of Welbourne who departed ys world ye X1111 daie of October ye yere of owr Lorde M.D.L.vii (1557) on whose soule God have Mercie.”**

The chancel is wainscoted on the three sides 5ft high, very neat in panels. Within the rails is a wainscot table, over it between two fluted wood pillars, a large frame inclosing a Gilt Leather, 5ft high, 4ft 6 broad on which are painted at top, a Dove descending on open wings, below it, a wounded bleeding heart, in each of the four corners a cherub, the whole and each of them is surrounded with Rays of Glory (gilt).

Immediately above this, a circular or Rose Window in the centre in modern painted glass, the Holy Lamb carrying a cross with a pennon on which I.H.S. Diam 3 ft, protected on the outside with wire-work.

Above this, painted on the wall surrounded with an ornamental Border “psalm XXV1-V-6 I will wash my hands in Innocency O Lord, and so will I go to Thine Altar. That I

may shew the Voice of Thanksgiving, and tell of all thy Wondrous Works." On the one side another. "The Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: and when he had given thanks he break it and said, take eate: this is my body which is broken for you: do this in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped saying, this cup is the New Testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as you drink it, in remembrance of me.
On the other side another, "For as often as ye eate this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till He come. Wherefore whosoever shall eate this bread and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord."
On the north wall another, "The end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer. And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover a multitude of sins." And "Now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three, but the greatest of these is Charity. (1 Cor. Chap. X111-13)" Another "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering: and let us consider one another to provoke unto love and good works. (Heb.X-22, 23,24)"
In the south wall are two modern windows, each 8ft wide and 5ft wide, (very pitiful ones).
In the chancel are a Cast Iron Chest for Registers, a wood chest, locked for surplices, papers, books etc."

"Welbourn continued 10th March 1832.
The Floor of the Nave, Side Aisles and western part are very handsomely paved with good flat stone slabs; the Floor of the Steeple is of stone but not so perfect or good in quality. The Nave is divided from the Steeple by a pointed archway in wh. are semi-octagonal pillars on the sides. Archway 22ft 6 high,

11ft 8 wide - it is now built up and a small Doorway of Stone in it with a semi-circular head and a Door 6ft 6 high, 3ft wide. On the south side of this Arch is a projection in which is a flat head Doorway and Door 6ft high 2ft wide opening to a stone spiral staircase of 60 stone steps, leading to the Leads of the Nave and on one side into the steeple middle chamber, which is 17ft 9 high. In its west wall a Lancet window 1ft 6 high 7 inches wide. Wall here is 3ft 6 thick – mount to the Bell chamber by a ladder. The Bell chamber is 11ft high to the root of the spire, which is an octagonal one. In each of the three faces (except the east) is a pointed Arch Window. A centre stone Mullion forms two divisions with Lancet Heads 6ft high 3ft wide each. In this chamber, which is open to the top of the spire are 3 Bells, Frames, Wheels, Ropes etc all exceedingly good, except the great Bell which has a very large Crack, so as to render it Useless. 1st Bell 2ft 6 Diam (motto not legible)---- 1663. 2nd Bell 3ft 1 Diam "Sce Laurenti." 3rd Bell 3ft 3 Diam "Sanctar Omn 1663." There is a ladder leads upon the top of the tower. The Broach is at the Base 6ft 8 each face of the octagon. At each of the 4 corners of the Tower is a Pinnacle, Basket Head and crocketed in the Angles above 13ft high and 2ft Diam, joined to the Spire by a small flying Buttress of open work, 4ft wide to the Spire. The embattled part of the Tower is 4ft 9 high above the root of the Spire. I measured the lesser crockets in the Angle, 3ft each from the other. There are 30 in height, summounted (sic) by a Fane at the top. The height of this Basement is 26ft.

The Nave is separated from each of the side Aisles by 4 pointed Arches, resting on 3 very light octagonal Pillars and a semi Pillar at each end and very handsome Capitals. Arches 21ft high, Pillars are13ft high. The Arches have stone copes over.

There are 4 upper windows on each side of the Nave up to the Wall Plate, est.10ft high 5ft wide. 2 stone Mullions form 3 divisions in each. Each of these divisions is subdivided with 2

cross bars. Each has 3 subdivisions with Trefoil Heads and excellent Tracery at Top. Between each 2 of these windows is a pair of handsome Niches with cinquefoil Heads, in which at some period have been statues of 12 Apostles, large as Nature, as I saw at Bruges etc. There have been a great number of Images in and out of this church, but most of those of the inside have disappeared. The outside ones remain. The upper windows of the Nave have Stone Copes, resting on Gothic Head Corbels. There are also 5 large Gothic head Corbels under the Cornices of the Ceiling. I imagine they support some beam of the roof.

This church is neatly pewed and paneled, but the pews are not painted but numbered.

The Pulpit and Sound Board is an octagon of Oak, standing in the southeast angle of the Nave, adjoining the chancel.

The Font is in the centre at the west end – a very light stone one, ornamented, a circular cup, 2ft Diam. and 4 ft high, a Wood Cover at Top. Inside of it is a Pewter Basin, "Welbourne Parish" engraved on the side. Round the front is engraved, "The gift of John Welby, Esq. Anno Dom: 1733. William Julian fecit"

Mr. John Welby was the son of Mr. Thomas Welby, gentleman, and Mary, baptized at Welbourn 1665. So William Julian was a stonemason. He had 'bills to the church' almost every year about this date.

The entries that follow are in the old book of church wardens accounts.

1735 Spent of sum removing the funt	1s-6d
1735 For carrng some wood to gard the funt	1s 6d
1735 spent for removing the funt to the right place	1s 6d
1774 mending ye funt cover	1s 6d
1822 to metal basin for funt	9s 0d

“A part of the top of the Pointed Arch into the Chancel is built up and on it, on the side of the Nave is a large painting of the King’s Arms, in the Garter, with the motto-
Quarterly
1st Quarter…Party per pale England and Scotland
2nd Quarter ..3 Fleurs de Lis – France
3rd Quarter….Ireland
4th Quarter…in 3 divisions…

1st Gules 2 Lions Passant Guerdant Or.
2nd Or with Hearts Gules , a lizar rampant Blue.
3rd Gules a horse courant Argent, an Inescutcheon Charlemagne’s Crown.

Motto below,
“ Dieu et Mon Droit.”
Supporters Helmet, Crown, Crest, Mantled, at top.
G.R. Emblems Rose and Thistle.”

“11. Welbourn Church. Notes by General Loft. 1832.
The South Aisle is 24ft high on the side next the Nave and 19ft high at the Wall Plates. It has 3 handsome pointed Arch windows in the Side Wall, 2 stone Mullions in each, form 3 Divisions with Trefoil Heads, with three large Bulls Eyes, 2 and 1 etc. above 11ft 6 high, 5ft 9 wide. Each have mouldings and Stone Copes over, resting on Gothic Head Corbels. At the west end, a very neat Pointed Head Window, has had the stone pattern work taken out, having remaining only a Centre Stone Mullion, forming 2 Divisions with pointed heads and a Quatrefoil Bulls Eye, between at Top. It has a neat stone cope over, resting on Gothic Head Corbels. The pointed Arch window is 13ft high 5ft 6 wide.
There is a very handsome Moulding of stone round this Aisle. Near to the east end of it, has been one of the Ancient Large Tombs built in the wall, now removed. In the southeast angle

is a very handsome and perfect Double Piscena. In the east end a pointed Arch Window is 15ft high 7ft 6 broad, 3 moulded stone Mullions form 3 (4) Divisions with Trefoil Heads and Bulls Eyes and very handsome ornament above. It has a stone cope over, resting on Gothic Head Corbels.
The north Aisle is 24ft high next the Nave and 19ft high at the Wall plates. It has 3 pointed Arch Windows in the sidewall, exactly the same as those in the wall of the south Aisle. There is also one in the east end, the same as the east end of the south Aisle. In the west end of this Aisle is a handsome pointed Arch Window, 13ft high 5ft 6 broad. 2 stone Mullions form 3 divisions with Trefoil Heads and 3 bulls Eyes, 2 and 1 over. Good stone cope resting on Gothic Head Corbels over. The one in the west end of the South Aisle was the same.
On the Wall 2 large Frames with 10 Commandments in 2 Tables, white ground, black letters. Also framed Degrees of Affinity.
Entrance from Porch by pointed Arch Doorway 6ft high 4ft wide, stone moulding round. Porch is 13ft high, semicircular ceiling. In basement (of Tower) the Doorway is a pointed Arch 8ft high 4ft wide and a pointed Arch window over, 10ft high 5ft broad. 2 Stone Mullions form 3 Divisions with Cinquefoil Heads and Quatrefoil Bulls Eyes over, a very good window.
In a large covered or canopied Pew at the North east end of the Nave, a Door and Spiral Stone Staircase of 27 steps, leading to the Rood Loft, covered on top at outside by a sort of Pinnacle. There is also an Octagon Pinnacle on top of the Staircase on the Leads on the South side Nave, crocketted and 14ft high from the Leads.
The church is very clean and handsome, the best-conditioned one I ever saw. It is drawn, all the walls and all over coloured and rough like stone in squares, like stones as is the Porch. From the seats on each side all round the top, the whole has an appearance of stone. Inside and out this church is most beautiful, except the Chancel, which has been rebuilt and is a

small, paltry concern, altogether unworthy of so good and beautiful a church. When I was upon the Leads of the Nave, I saw a Cornice at the Roots of the Battlements of the Steeple on the east side, which had 2 capital stone water bearers and 12 very excellent Carved Gothic Heads. (Query. Is there on all faces the same?)
Some few years since, the Rooks built their nests in amazing quantities round the Spire upon the crockets, the only place, but one, in England where they have done so. They are now driven away.
The Road up to the old Rood Loft is in Mrs. Ridgell's Pew, the staircase outside connected by a plain octagonal pyramid with large stone Ball on Top.
12th March 1832. Height of church Tower. Basement 26ft. Middle chamber 17ft 9. Bell chamber 11ft. Inside Battlements 4ft 9,together 59ft 6 or 60ft. Spire above."

A few years later the official account, which follows was written by Archdeacon Bonney D.D. during his visitation of the Archdeaconry of Lincoln in 1845 and subsequently.
"July 23rd. Welbourne Church. The Tower is Early English. The Battlements Minarets (ie Pinnacles) and crocketted Spire and Clerestory are very fine Perpendicular. The windows of the Clerestory are very large and the parapet is embattled. The Windows have transoms. The Nave and Aisles are slated. Decorated S. Aisle. A South Porch with good Pedimental Buttresses. Chancel is altogether unworthy of the church, which is lofty and of fine proportions.
There are Tabernacles (ie enriched niches) on each side of the Porch. In the centre niche over the porch arch is the representation of the Crucifixion. The Weeds, (pelitory of the Wall) to be plucked away. Southwest angle of the tower, to be cemented in the joints. West window perpendicular in the Tower. North door stopped up. A niche at the northeast end of the nave. At east end of Nave gable, is a niche for Sanctus

Bell. The chancel is said to have fallen in the 17th century. The Piers and Arches of the Nave are decorated.
There are 2 remarkable niches or sunken panels between each window in the Clerestory within. There is a monumental arch and Piscina in the South Aisle. There are 2 Bells. Tower floor seems good. Tower Arch walled up and a small door inserted. Modern stone Font and a top with a Pewter Basin. Chancel and woodwork will be repaired.
On a Brass in the chancel, **'Ye shall pray for the Soule of Nicholas Baylye late of Welbourne, who departed ye world ye XX111 dais Octob. The year of our Lord MDLV11 of whose soule God have Mercy'."**

Welbourne Continued, Appendix page 470.
"There is an Oak Communion Table, which must be cleaned and oiled and the Rails also. There is an old but sufficient covering for the Table. In the Nave are two Brasses on which is the armorial Bearing (a Fesse between 3 crosses patty fitchy, impaling a cross ermine) To the Memory of Robert Riley and his wife Elizabeth.
There are two surplices. Two good Prayer Books, one new. Bible wants binding and repairing. A scarlet cloth and pulpit cushion. A Parish Pall. A Pewter Flagon and Plate. Silver Elizabethan Chalice and Paten. There are three Bells, one of which is cracked. The Nave roof and roof of Aisles good."
Since this was written the chancel has been rebuilt by the present Incumbent, Mr. Disbrowe, and is a great improvement. H.K.B.
The glass of the present East Window was given by Mrs. Allen in 1895, in memory of her husband, Robert Marshall Allen, Inspector General, 3rd Dragoon Guards and of his brother, Surgeon General Allen. The window is a good one and very 'satisfactory'. At the top is the Crucifixion with the sun and moon darkened, and two ministering angels. The four large figures, reading from the left are St Peter with the Key;

St Chad, patron Saint with the model of Litchfield Cathedral in his hand; St Hugh, Lincoln, with a model of the Minster at his feet; and St Patrick, patron Saint of an Irish house, apostle of Ireland, AD 461. The greatest of his miracles was that of driving the venomous reptiles out of Ireland, and so he is here, pictured with his foot on a snake.

They have taken the picture of St. Peter, whether they knew it or not, from the Seal of Eye Priory. It represents a full-length figure of the patron Saint, with a key in one hand and an open book in the other. The seal was large and oval and one is appended to the acknowledgement of King Henry V111's supremacy. This is in the Chapter House at Westminster.

The pictures below represent:

1) The Woman who washed the feet of Our Lord with tears and wiped them with the hairs of her head, and anointed them, "for my burial."

2) The Garden of Gethsemane, "not My will but Thine be done."

3) The Via Dolorosa—The way of the Cross.

4) "Woman Behold thy Son." With a tiny cross on the skyline.

The firm of architects was Messrs. James Powel and Son of London. William Musson, then a young carpenter in the village, was commissioned to cut the patterns of the tracery and he sent them to London. When the stained glass came down it was found to fit the tracery exactly and perfectly. He was very much complimented by the London firm and offered a remunerative job and work in America, if he chose to take it.

A footnote to the curious brief of the storm of 1666, was written in 1801 and printed in The Gentleman's Magazine of that year, page 317.

"Welbourne is a considerable village, near The Cliff, 12 miles south of Lincoln. It had once a Castle, the moat and mounds of which still remain and are called Castle Garth. It contains about 3 acres near which is a remarkably fine spring of water.

The Lordship contains 3,214 acres and comprises a very valuable enclosed property, chiefly belonging to the Earl of Buckinghamshire. The church hath a spire, steeple and the only one throughout the country, wherein the rooks build their nests."

The church at present (1936) consists of the fabric and seats, as they were in 1884. Carved oak choir stalls in the chancel. Oak reading desk and lectern, and pulpit at the foot of the chancel steps. The Communion rails are of Brass, open in the centre. Within the rails are two oak Sanctuary chairs and a kneeler. Oak Holy table and Re-Table.
The Reredos of carved oak, three panels, was given by the Parishioners in 1930, as a thank offering for His Majesty's restoration to health in 1929. The design was approved by the Lincoln advisory committee and the carving and fixing etc, executed by the late Mr. R Ellis of Leadenham. The oak paneling on either side was the gift at the same time, by her family, "in Loving Memory of Rachel Need, at rest Sept.24th 1929."
An old oak table, Queen Anne period, now by the south door, was returned to the rectory as belonging to the church, some years ago.

In 1828 the parish paid 3s-3d to William Lunn for a 'frame and boards for Dregrees (sic) of Mariage." This was hung along with the 10 Commandments, on either side of the north door, 50 years ago. This table of 'Degrees' set "by the authority of the Lord God" in 1563, was to be in every church "Publickly set up" and fixed at the charge of the parish. There is one such board in the vestry of Wellingore church.

The silver and other goods are listed under the head of Inventory. The oak altar book was given to the rector, (Mr

Puckridge) for his use, on the occasion of his Silver Wedding in 1914, by his 3 children.

The Tower Clock was made and given by Canon Sutton of Brant Broughton in 1895.

The electric light in the church was given by Mr. Bainton, in 1936 in memory of his wife. The inscription reads, **"The installation of Electric light in this church is a Memorial to Mabel Emmeline Bainton who resided in this parish for 25 years. She died on July15th 1934. Greatly Beloved."**

(There is a book noting payment for the upkeep of the church throughout the 1940's to early 50's. This was the period during the 2nd World War and the years of austerity that followed. Most of the able-bodied men were away fighting in one or other of the forces, so it was left to the older people in the village to retain the upkeep of the church and smooth running, especially with regard to Sunday Services, marriages, christenings and burials. Payments had to be made to the Organist, the cleaning lady, and the clock winder. The telephone and electricity needed paying and on occasions the organ required repairing.
Mrs. Gash was the cleaner for many years and was paid £2-12s per month. Mrs. Bristow took over in December 1947 by which time the payments had gone up to £3.18s and remained at that figure up until 1953 and maybe beyond. By 1967, the cleaner, a Mrs E.M. Clarke was paid £6.10s.
The salary per month for the organist varied. It could be £2.0s or £1.15s or as low as £1.13.9d. By the mid 1940's it had gone up to £5 4s. There were various organists over that period of time. A Mr. F.H. Godley, Mr. J.W. Kirman, Mr.F.Brown and Mrs. Maud Close. Later, in 1959 Mr. Norman

Tasker was noted as organist, remaining so for many years. The current organist (2022) is Mr. David Nelson of Fulbeck. Wood Wordsworth were often employed for 'organ tuning', charging £4.4s except for one bad year in March 1942, when the bill came to £100. By 1967 the cost of tuning had doubled to £8.8s.

The clock needed regular weekly winding. Mr. W. Trueman performed that task for many years at 6s 6d per week. Mr. A Wilkinson took over but in 1945 was paid 7s 8d. By 1950 there was a jump in the fortune of the clock winder as the salary went up to £4.2s 7d, later reaching the dizzy height of £4. 15s 2d in December 1950. The church relied almost entirely on collections and donations for its income, and somehow kept afloat.)

Chapter 1V

Restorations Then and Now

The first Restoration of which we have any knowledge is of the south Aisle and Porch in 1363, while later the clerestory and spire were added.

In 1735 the churchwardens paid 1s 6d to somebody "for shooting att the fowel in the church." Apparently birds got in, in those days or perhaps, most likely it was the 'crows' that built in the belfry. Did they keep a fowling piece as well as the musket? The charge for "shooting att the fowels" goes on for a year or two and the 'Glasior' and his 'leraner' (learner) had bills each year. It would be fatally easy for a shot to miss a 'fowel' and hit a window, of course. The remedy worse than the disease.

One, Timothy Bonnewell, in 1782, received £5 for pointing of ye steeple, which had one curious result. 6 years later there is an entry. 1789 "for taking a elder from ye steeple, 6d." By1796 it had become an elder tree, then weeds as well and every year up to 1811 the churchwardens paid, first 1s, then 1s 6d to have them taken down. In 1812 they "paid Mr. Haywood (the Rural Dean) for inspecting the church £1. 11s 6d" and he made sure his orders about 'weeds' had been carried out. He saw, perchance, broken panes of glass aloft, for the churchwarden Mr. Johnson had to pay the 'Glasior' £33.

The Glazier's bills are amazing, occurring as they did, year after year. Just to take a few:-

1755 £6 9s 7d. Glaisher- Joseph Daubeney
1758 £12 14s 7d windows.
£2 odd Sawdear
£5 odd Casing

1787 £22 15s 6d Glaiser
1790 £12 odd
£8
£14 11s 6d etc etc.

Much of the stained glass had been irretrievably damaged when the Reformers of 1536 broke out the Trynytyes and Crosses and all Monuments of superstition in glass, wood etc. Next to nothing was left at Welbourn.

Repairing the church 1817. A church rate or levy was gathered every year at 1d or 2d in the pound and yielded £17 or £22 etc. But when they had bills of £33, £36, and £57 to pay, the levy yielded £39, £92 and £66. What they did in repairing the church was in wood and stone.
Robert Picker's bill, (he was the carpenter,) was £36. Stones cost £25, wood £76, work £57. Jackson's bill was £88. So they took up £250 and more on interest and paid the lenders £5 and £7 10s, and £5 and £7 10s each a year. A pity to see, until a levy amounting to £132 odd, enabled them to equal the expenses.
This was in Mr. Ridghill's time. He died in 1818.

All honour to the churchwardens and parochial church councilors of today, who aim at getting at least a large proportion of the required sum, before they sanction the putting in hand of any considerable work.

<u>The building of the high ceiling.</u> In April and May 1820, the two churchwardens, Mr. Mitton and Mr. Newton, had accounts for unloading slate, 1 ½ tons of scaffold poling from Lincoln, days at roofing the church and at the lime kiln in Leadenham.
Then up to 1825 there are pages of closely written accounts of all the work done at the church at this Restoration, totaling

one year £350, £650 the next, as against £9 or £14 in ordinary years.
The levy or church rate had risen from the 2 ½ per acre in 1755, yielding for that year £18-15-3d to £24-12-8d in 1758. 2d an acre in 1775 only yielded £15-3-4, so the following year they changed to the Pound and 2 ½ per Pound brought in £18-13-2d.
In 1787 the levy was 4 ½ in the Pound and brought in £35-4-10d. The churchwardens had a credit balance, due to the town of £3-11-2d so the next year the levy dropped to 1d per Pound. It was a good idea for the parish to pay for the work required during the year, but when there is nothing extra added on, so much money would not be required. So, in 1817 when they had to pay back the sum, 'borrowed for repairing the church' the levy came to £132-18-6d. Then for two years it was £44 odd.
In 1820 the levy rose to 3s-6d in the Pound and yielded £470-5-4 ½ d. The next year it was 2s-3d and the following year 2s-6d. They had some money in hand after that, but not enough so Mr. Mitton advanced £12-11- 0 ½ d, to pay the bills.

The following entry is made, but not signed on the cover of the parchment book.
"Collected by levy for repairing the church organ in 1820 up to 1825 at 7s-9d. £1,041-0-5d.
Received for lead and other materials belonging to the church. £336-13-10d

Total £704-15-7d

The lead and materials sold seem to have been as stated:-

10ton 14cwt lead at £21 £224-14-0d

4 ½ Ton lead at £21	£94-10-0d
Old stuff	£2-1-10d
Materials	£14-2-4d
5lbs copper nails	£0-11-3d
24 iron nails at 7d	£0-14-0d
Spare Laths	£0-3-0d
Total	£336-15-5d

At this time in the church's history the lead was sold wholesale off the roofs of churches, and one of the most beautiful in Lincolnshire, Tattershall was roofed over with corrugated iron.
£15 was paid to William Dauber for re-slating the high roof with 1 ton of new slate and £138 to Lewis, the slater but over 15 tons of lead had come down. Only in 1812 they paid the carriage of lead and 3s "for help to get the lead on the church."

Their biggest bills in 1820-25 were £129 to Mr. Cuttil. Lincoln. £117 to Jas. Darcy. £176 to John Savidge….Slates as above. Stones came from Wilsford quarry, Barnpit Close, North pit and Barnpiece pit, the last three being in the parish. William Wilkinson's bill for leadings to church was £43. Slate, all the spoutings, the plaister and £4-1-9d worth of copper nails, came from Newark. The copper nails seemed hard to get. They had several journeys 'about them', 5/- per journey.
Basses (hassocks) were had from Metheringham, several times. Sand from Fulbeck and wood from Swinderby.
Some of the workmen engaged on the Restoration were Edward Challons, John Winter. William Chambers and John Hooton all roofed the church. John Baker, Daniel Harvey and William Woodridge all helped. "Richard Rains digging 114 yards of stone at 7d per yard…£3-6-6d. Joseph Chambers

baking plaister." Others were George Minnitt, Martin Palin, William Almond, Thomas Bailey, John Graves, and William Blackbourn. Elizabeth Butler weeded the pavement in the churchyard and a Mrs. Wilkinson cleaned the church and the square pews. Many of these are well-known names in Welbourn today. (1933)

In the second year of work, "8 loads of stone from church to Mote Lane and rubbish from church Gate." "Barrowing soil out of church and wall sides. Post holes, ceiling joists."
1821. Digging foundations for church wall, 32 loads of stone from church to roads, 10 loads of rubbish from church wall, barrowing the same out of church yard.
1822. West wall building £5-18-7d. This is probably the wall referred to by General Loft. Plaisterers bill £122-8-9d.
1825. To 6 people taking away the rubbish from off the high ceiling. 8s-9d.
That is the summer that the high roof was re-slated with 1 ton of new slate. The following year the levy went back to 3d then to 2d in the Pound.
Old inhabitants still remember the high ceiling, which came just above the arches of the clerestory windows. The pews were square seated all round inside and only came halfway down the aisle. Two and sometimes three families occupied one pew. In one on the south side sat George Picker and his family, his brother William and his family and the future Sir William Robertson with his parents and brothers and sisters.

John Hall, Mr. Disbrowe's man, with his wife and daughter sat in a pew on the north side, about where the organ now stands.
There were candles at the corners of the seats, which gave a very dim light in such a huge place and were a great temptation to small restless fingers! At Christmastime, boughs of evergreens were put at the corner of each seat, looking, as somebody said, 'for all the world like a plantation.'

From the high ceiling, right across the church, depended red moreen curtains, which buttoned up the middle. Latecomers had to unbutton them and do them up again. In summer they were drawn with cords and hung in festoons from the high ceiling. They cost £100 when new.
Later than the candles, a row of lamps hung down the centre of the aisle, drawn up by chains out of the way for summer, for they hung very low. One day the wrong one got put by the reading desk and had to be altered. The ladder was reared on a pew and held by the man while the apprentice went to unhook it. But the height was too great. The ladder slid sideways out of all control and the young man fell on his side across a pew. He was taken home on a door and by the Mercy of God recovered and has worked all his life, but it must have been a terrible fright for master and man.
A scarlet cover for a cushion at this time cost 11s. 10d. This would be for the pulpit. In a book of churchwarden's accounts of another parish is :-

"Itm layd out for V111 yerdes and a halffe of saye for Mris. R's peue and Mris F's peue at XV1d the yeard,

	X1s	1111d
For Red sylke lace for the pues		X11d
For whyt rose nayles		X11d"

A note at the side reads "these 111 p'celles are not allowed by the p'ishe in this accompts. Of the owners of ye pues to be gathered." So basses (hassocks) were bought and provided here but aught else must be paid for by "ye owners of ye pues."

The new parish surplice with silver clasp cost £1-19-6d. Windows again were giving trouble, £6-14-8d.

We have seen now the Restoration of 1820-5 and the building of the high ceiling and something that was done with wood and stone and workmanship in 1817-18.
In 1735 they paid to William Julian for repairing the church, £3-5-0d.
In 1750 paid John Roase 14/- for an oak tree. 1756 they whitewashed the church for £4-4-7d. 1774 it seems that part of the church wall was built or re-built. They fetched loads of sand from Deepdale, 30ft of Ouck, stones and bricks. 3/6d was paid for Raving ye wall and gathering stones. They bought a mop, a staff, a hard brush and 2 beesams and it took then 3 ½ days cleaning the church.1782, a 16ft baulk and 4 days repairing pillows (pillars) and they pointed the steeple. In 1786 slates and lats cost £3-15-6d. Paid the slater £1-9-0d. This is the time the elder tree was growing in the steeple. 1833 they "rebuilt the coping and repaired the church wall." 1842 "a buttress in the north side aisle and the churchyard wall," were repaired for £2-1-0d. 1864 pd Arthur for asphalting the churchyard £3-18-0d.
The chancel, which Mr. Disbrowe inherited and subsequently re-built, had a ceiling only 18ft high. (See General Loft's notes) The present chancel was built in 1854 by Mr. Disbrowe, though it was not as we see it today. The seats, walls, and stained glass all being altered in 1884. Who the architect was, we do not know. But Styles of Navenby built it and the tracery of the east window is an exact copy, with one small difference, of the east window of the chantry of 1363.
Where the money came from is not clear but in a list of church building and restoration in Lincoln Diocese, since 1840, appears the item, "Welbourn, new chancel £700, 1858."
The levy in 1855 yielded, £142-7-6 ½d but the only large bill is one of £117 for repairing church tower and spire in 1853. This seems to have been done by a Mr. Brown of Sheffield.

The next Restoration is within living memory, (1933) carried out by the late Canon F.A. Leslie-Melville, rector. The work that was done was almost entirely structural. The old, flat ceiling of lath and plaster was removed and the roof raised to the original height. A wooden roof was put in. All the plaster was taken off the walls of the church and porch, showing good stone beneath. This brought to light the circular window over the chancel arch. This little window was filled with plain glass, which was then painted by Canon F.H. Sutton of Brant Broughton. Windows of this kind are common on the continent, but are rare in parochial churches in this country.

The west arch was opened and new doors put to the rood loft staircase. The heating apparatus was installed, in place of old coke stoves. This necessitated a lot being done to the floor, which lowered the level of it considerably. "The old, worm-eaten deal seats" were taken away and the whole church re-seated.

Some tiny bits of stained glass were discovered then and preserved in one of the windows in the south aisle.

Service was held in the school during Restoration, the seats being stacked in a house opposite. The Bishop came for the great day of the re-opening, on Easter Sunday 15th April 1884. About 35 clergy and many friends assembled for the 11 o'clock service. It was Bishop Wordsworth's first appearance after his serious illness and as soon as the ceremony was concluded, he returned to Riseholm. He was 78 years of age. He died on 21st March of the following year. The effigy on his tomb in the Angel Choir at Lincoln is a good likeness.

The sermon at the 11 o'clock service was preached by Dr. Freemantle, the Dean of Ripon from the text, "and greater works than these shall you do, because I go to the Father." At the evening service by Canon Melville's late rector, the Reverend H. James, of Livermore, Suffolk, his text being, "all my springs are in Thee." The collection at 11 A.M. amounted to £165-16-1d and at night £13-4-3d.

Mr. Davis, organist of Leadenham, was at the harmonium. The music was rendered by the Welbourn choir and other friends. The pulpit then stood where the reading desk is now.
Mr. Melville had said that he hoped that people would take their seats now, as nearly in the same place as they had been accustomed to sit. "But we couldn't do it…the seats was all different but we knew whereabouts we wanted to be by the winders! Them hadn't been altered!" Rather pathetic!
The architect was Mr. Kirk of Sleaford, who two years later was appointed Surveyor to the Diocese.
Very exact accounts were kept of all the moneys collected and expended. They paid Mr. Sherwin of Boston, the contractor, £500 a year for four years. The ironwork on the rood loft doors and other doors, was executed by Mr. Attewell for Mr. Kirk. The architect's cheque was for £126-11-6d. They got a bit short before all was paid. It was a huge undertaking and Mr. Melville went to his churchwarden, Mr. W.T. Lamb, and he gave another £10. Then Mr. Melville collected and gave a few hundreds more. They ended with a balance in hand of £4-14-2d.
£12 was given among the original sum for the lectern.
The actual cheques paid out to Messrs. Sherwin etc. totaled £2,478-18-7d so the work done, cost at least that amount. There are bound to have been many incidental expenses, such as cleaning etc. which are not entered.

The pulpit, "an octagon of oak," in 1832 is on the south of the chancel arch. It was re-faced with carved oak in memory of Mrs. Mountain, by her family in 1898.
The old door to it is loose in the vestry and it shows that the old carving was faithfully reproduced in the new work. Round the base is what may be a date in Latin and, "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."
One of the young men employed on the Restoration was the late Mr. R. Ellis of Leadenham, who carved the oak reredos in

1930. The names of some of the workmen are carved high up in the timbers of the roof.

Update by David Close

(In the mid 1980's The Rev. Bryan Bennett ("Basher") arranged for the restoration of the clerestory windows. The funding was raised from parishioners who remained anonymous. He also created a small Prayer Corner in front of the War Memorials. A fuller restoration of the church fabric, particularly the roofing in Cumberland slate, was carried out in the late 1990's. Great assistance was had from English Heritage and various other funds, amounting to a little under £200,000. Each of thse charitable bodies required their own application forms and a great deal of complicatd paperwork resulted. PCC funding contributed over £10,000. Mr. Reg Brealey arranged for the restoration of the outer wall of the churchyard, in sore need of repair, with the help of 'young offenders'. This gave the youngsters a real sense of accomplishment, especially as various pieces of broken headstones and masonry were incorporated into the wall. In 2018 the church paths were resurfaced. Hugh Dibley organized this, at a total price of £9638.40)

The Organ

The organ was bought, largely by the proceeds of a Bazaar, held by Canon Leslie-Melville and his family, on Tuesday and Wednesday 24th, 25th July 1890. It was opened in 1892 and the school children had a half- holiday for it. It was placed at first in front of the closed north door and the choir sat near it in front of the red curtain. Miss Mary Mountain played the organ for years and loved it. When it was removed in 1909, the space before occupied by it, was filled with the half seats, removed to make room for it in the north aisle.

Messrs. Wordsworth and Maskell of Leeds, were the builders. The following description is taken partly from notes supplied upon request, by the Firm and partly from an extract from the Lincolnshire Chronicle, of that date, 1892.

"On 16th June the beautiful organ at St. Chad's church, Welbourn, was opened. About 50 workpeople were employed, but Mr. Wordsworth personally attended to the proper finishing and toning.

The musical portion of the services, for which special provision had been made, was taken by the Welbourn choir, in a most satisfactory manner. Mr. Wordsworth was at the organ in the afternoon, and Mr. Davis, organist of Leadenham, in the evening.

A few particulars in connection with the exceedingly fine organ, which must rank as one of the best in the district, may be of interest.

It comprises two manuals and a separate pedal organ. The following is the specification:-

Great Organ 56 notes. Compass CC to G in alt. Stops:-

Open Diapason 8ft Tone.	Principal 4ft Tone
Stopped `` ``	Wald Flute `` ``
Dulciana `` ``	Fifteenth 2ft Tone
Gamba `` ``	

Swell Organ 56 Notes. Stops:-

Lieblich Bourdon 16ft Tone	Principal 4ft Tone
Open Diapason 8ft Tone	Mixture (3 ranks, various)
Lieblich Gedact `` ``	Cornopean 8ft Tone
Keraulophon `` ``	Oboe `` ``
Voix Celeste `` ``	

Pedal Organ, 30 notes. Compass CCC to F. Stops:-

Bourdon 16ft Tone. Soft Bass

Couplers:-

Swell to Great. Swell to Pedals. Great to Pedals.
3 composition pedals acting on Great Organ. 2 ditto acting on Swell Organ and a lever pedal on the Swell.
The mellow tone of the Diapasons, Gedact and Flute is very strongly marked, and the voicing of the Karaulophon, Voix Celeste and Oboe is exquisite. There is a distinctive character in every stop, each bearing its own part in building up the magnificent full organ. The reed stops are the firm's own and Mr. Wordsworth's personal voicing.
Mechanically the organ is most highly finished. The stops are fixed at an angle of 45 degrees, so as to be readily accessible to the organist.
The case is of plain design, surmounted by speaking pipes made of the best Belgium zinc. The pipes are on a Cathedral scale. They number:-

On the Great Organ	368
On the Swell	580
On the Pedal	30

Total	978

The mixture stop voices no less than 168 pipes. The pedals are radiated and the action is built on Mr. Wordsworth's system of tubular pneumatic. The general excellence and careful adjustment of the minutiae, coupled with the divided pallets on the soundboard, enable the instrument to be used with almost as much ease and as little noise in the working parts, as a piano.

During the opening day of June 16th 1892, the organ was put to severe tests. The unanimous feeling, being freely expressed,

that for brilliant tone and lightness of touch it could not be excelled. It was a credit to the maker and a valuable and pleasing addition to the church."
A public tea was provided in a marquee in the rectory grounds, which were thrown open for the occasion. Recitals were given on the organ from time to time.
The cost of the organ was £371. About three years after it was erected, that part of the church was found to be damp. £6-7-5d had to be spent on re-leathering some of the pallets. The damp was still detrimental to the instrument. It was therefore removed to its present position in January 1909. The organ had to be taken down, cleaned and re-erected. The cost was £37-10-0d. Mr. William Musson, the carpenter, gave his work free and Messrs. Taylor and Land, their help in raising the necessary funds. Doubtless many others did likewise.
"Since then the organ has behaved itself remarkably well!"
In 1922 it was found that the Death Watch Beetle had infected part of the woodwork and it was cleaned etc. at the coat of £43 by the makers.

The list of costs below, are the bills connected with Restoration over 20 years.

1909. Organ removed	£37-10-0d and work given
1912. Church Room built	£95-13-11 1d. Site given
1913. Church boiler renewed	£44-9-11d.
1920. Church roof repaired	£140-0-0d.
1920. Memorial Cross	£110-3-5d.
Faculty	£3-3-0d.
1921. Oak tablet	£15-9-6d.
1923. Organ restored	£43-0-0d.
1924. Churchyard Extension	£84-13-10d. Site given
1929. Clock bill.	£13-0-0d.
1930. Oak Reredos	£26-0-0d.
Faculty	£3-3-0d.

Total cost 1909-1930 £616-6-7d.

(In 2007-9 another complete restoration was undertaken. Mr. Alan W. Goulding, Organ Builder and Tuner of Pipe Organ Services of Foston, carried out the work. Part of the cost was borne by a generous grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, plus several other grant making bodies and the remaining funding came from the many events put on locally. These local events were a condition of the funding. Mr. David Close organized musical/choir evenings as well as various performances by notable artists. For instance, an Organ Recital, by Charles Harrison, assistant organist of Carlisle Cathedral, promoted the newly restored organ to great acclaim. Other events include, Roving Suppers, garden fetes, village hall suppers, the 100club draw, regular collections in church and a parish planned giving scheme. All these fund-raisers are an on going exercise.)

Chapter V

The Bells of the Parish Church

Welbourn church steeple has today (1933) three bells, one of which is cracked. A small bell, minus its tongue stood in a corner of the belfry for 50 or 60 years. Francis Stevens, rector, says in a Terrier he signed in 1708, “Three Bells in ye steeple and one little one hanging in ye window.” It is more than possible that this was the disused Sanctus Bell.

When was the big bell cracked? It was cracked and useless in 1832. Up to 1745 the churchwardens paid every year for, “3 new bell-ropes.” Then the bills report, “new bell-ropes” until after the Restoration of the church in 1820-1825 when the entry is, “paid for 2 new bell-ropes.” So, it would seem that during those years the biggest bell was cracked. These 2 new bell-ropes cost £1. Three new ones from Newark had cost 7s-6d, so the next year they went back to Newark and bought 2 for 13/-.

They bought new bell-ropes every year up to 1770, from John Bringamen, after the ringing for the 5th November.

“For the ringers on 5th November 5/-.” The rejoicing on the 5th was, of course, national but it would not be everywhere that the church bells would be rung. It was done for this reason. The Patron of Welbourn was in 1606, no less a personage than Sir John Popham, the Lord Chief Justice who presided at the trial of Guy Fawkes and the other conspirators, in London.

He put Mr. John Stoneham into the rectory at Welbourn and what more natural than that they should ring the bells of rejoicing each year. Did they have an effigy of Guy Fawkes and build a huge bonfire in memory of 1605? Did they make the bells ring out to announce the failure of the Gunpowder Plot, which even today ‘is not forgot’.

“Please to remember the fifth of November,
Gunpowder, Treason and Plot.

I see no reason
Why Gunpowder Treason
Should ever be forgot."
The children dress up at the present day and come round the village at nightfall, chanting,
"Please to remember the fifth of November
The Poor old Guy!
I've holes in my stocking and holes in my shoe,
Please will you give me a copper or two.
If you haven't got a penny, a halfpenny will do
If you haven't a halfpenny…God Bless You!"

It was in 1770, the year that Mr. Ridgehill became rector that the ringing for fifth of November ceased. Perhaps it was thought to be unnecessary expanse or perhaps there was a deeper reason.
In Lincoln they held a meeting in the Justice Room in the Angel Inn on 29th October 1790 to "put down the Dangerous Practice of making Bonfires and throwing Squibs to the Manifold Hazard of Lives and Properties in the Bail of Lincoln."
An update of this was noted in the Daily Telegraph 16th November 1936. "Between 7 and 10pm on Nov.5th last, the London Fire Brigade received an average of one call every 90 seconds, with the result that only two or even one appliance could be sent where three or four would normally respond. 157 fires were due to fireworks and bonfires, an increase on last year of 67 calls. The Fire Brigade Committee urge the public to take every precaution in future years."

Some of the accounts for the Bells:-

1761. Rejoicing at the King and
Queen's Coronation (George 111) £1-2-0d.
Probably feasting as well as bells.

1750. For a pees of Irone and a bord for ye bels. £0-1-6d.

1749. A Board for ye bells and a bolt for ye Door. £0-3-0d.

1755. a baruke and an axel tree for ye bells £0-2-0d.

1765. A new Bell-wheel, Mr. Priestly £1-16-0d.

1771. Work and wood for Bell-chamber.

1772. Leather for the Bell Tonges. £0-2-0d.

1783. To Wm. Picker Leather for the bells £0-1-0d.

1815. Mr. Jackson for the Ropes and Blocks to get the bells up £0-10-6d

1815. to carreing Bell-frames and clearing rubbage away £0-5-0d.

1815. Help to get the bells up £0-5-0d.

1825. to storing spare slates and lathes in Bell-house £0-1-0d.

1825. Nov. Two 4ft.6 Glass leaded in Bell-house (?pigeons) £0-3-0d.

The following are all in one year:-

1779. To Mr. Mosman for 2 Bell Brasses Casting £1-3-2d.

1779. To Richard Alwood for Iron work at ye bells £1-14-8d.

1779. To John Priestly for work at the Bells Oyle £0-1-0d.

1779. To John Benrose for taking ye Brasses out from ye Bells £0-1-0d.

These bells are illustrated in “The Church Bells of Lincolnshire.”

The inscriptions below are from p.732 “Welbourn, St. Chad’s, 3 Bells and a Priest’s Bell.”

No.1 Bell Diameter 30’’ approx. Weight 5 cwt.2 qt.
No.2 Bell Diameter 34’’ approx. Weight 7 cwt.
No.3 cracked, Diameter 37’’ approx. Weight 9 cwt.

Inscriptions:-

No.1. Trebel Bell 1663 “Pax Audientibus me” W.S.
(Peace be to those who hear my chimes.)
No. 2. Tenor. Much older than the others.
No. 3. 1663 “Sanctus Domino “Holy to the Lord”
The initials W.S. stand for William Sellars, a coppersmith and bell-founder of York.

The ringing of Bells or death knells for the deceased, is very ancient. Bells themselves are very old, dating back, of course many centuries before Christ. In ancient times bells were rung only when important people died. But with the coming of Christianity, it became the custom to ring death bells for all good Christians. Church bells are tolled in the fens of Lincolnshire to announce a fire.

The Sermon bell, which used to be rung at Welbourn at 8am on Sundays, and had lost its use now that sermons are general. It was discontinued some years ago as the clerk undertook other needful work.

With regard to the little bell of the Terrier of 1708 and the one standing silent in the belfry 60 or 80 years ago, it is on record, that the rector, in March 1868, “Promises a good school bell.” Latecomers were growing numerous and the schoolmaster had recourse to “depriving all such of play, each day guilty of offence.” This had the desired effect and the “lates,”

decreased, but it is added, “there is some excuse for them, there being no public time-piece within sight or sound.” The rector, who loved his school, seeing brown heads, golden heads, curly head, bent over desks when they should have been out in the spring sunshine at play, promised a good bell. The little church bell, had external framework built for it above the roof of the church school, where it hangs today. (1933)

The solemn Passing Bell, as it is still called is tolled today after a death. 3 threes for a Brother departed. 2 twos for a Sister, and before the funeral. At Benington in Holland, where the church is on the high road, it is called the Death Bell and an old charge is recorded, “2/- for Tolling a Body through the Parish.” At Welbourn, it is not through the parish but sometimes, back to the parish.
The usual half hour Toll might well be shortened. If done by general consent it would give no offense. But let those who hear it put up a prayer, not for the departed whom we leave safe in His hands, but for those who remain.
(In 1978 all three bells were replaced by a generous gift from Mr. and Mrs. Reg Brealey with a peal of eight. The bells came from Holy Trinity Church, Hagworthingham, as the tower of that church collapsed in 1975 and the bells were declared redundant. The oldest of the bells dates from the 15th century and they are famously said to be the peal, which inspired Tennyson to write in his epic poem, Memoriam,

Ring out wild bells, to the wild sky
The flying cloud, the frosty light,
The year is dying in the night.
Ring out wild bells, and let him die.

The Bishop of Lincoln, and Rev Robert Woodfield conducted the ceremony of installation. Churchwardens Mr. Hugh Close and Mr. Derek Overton, The Rev. Robin Clark and the kind donors, Reg and Fran Brealey were present, as well as a large congregation. A BBC recording of the new peal was made and a 'take' was handed to Mr. and Mrs. Brealey. The old, redundant bells remain, forlornly, on the floor at the back of the church. At the same time the Brealeys also generously furnished the nave with new crimson carpeting and red seat-runners.)

Chapter V1

The Registers

The system of keeping parish registers was instituted by Thomas Cromwell. There should be a complete series from 1538 but it took several years for the system to become perfected. The registers at Welbourn start in 1561-62, much earlier than in many places. They are in very good order, considering their age.

In 1597 an injunction of Elizabeth1 provided for transcripts of the year's registers, to be deposited with the Bishop of the Diocese. The Welbourn Transcripts are fairly complete from 1562-1787. They should end in 1812. They are kept at Lincoln in the Diocesan Registry. The parchments are in good condition of many shapes and sizes. The smallest is an oblong 5 ¾ x 3 ½ and the largest measures 18 ½ x 10 ½ and is folded.

The first sheet signed by Johannem Harrisonn, Curate 1562-3 is headed:-

"The books of Register of all suche as were married Christenedde ande buried whin the pyshe of Welbourne mead (made) and burying date…..(illegible)….of the monthe of September which was in the yeare of or Soverengne Ladye Elizabeth and unto the laste day of the above said monethe being in the yeare of or Lorde God…..and the fifthe yeare of or Sovereigne Ladye Elizabeth above saide" 1562-3.

1588 is shorter and more Ecclesiastical:-

"A true certificate of all such mariayes, christenings and burials, as weare in ye parish of Welborne since ye feasts of St. Michaell th Archangell, Anno Dmi 1588 until the feast of St. Michaell Anni Dmi 1559. Dat Octobis 1559.

(Signed) Franncis Trigg"

The following rectors signed the transcripts and all but those with a * the registers as well:-

*Richard Cove.	Pastor.	1577 and 1579
*Franncis Trigg.	Pastor.	1589 and 1590
Johannem Stonham.	Rector	1610
*Gulielmus Warre.	Rector	1626-1628
Edward Gilder.	Rector	1652-1676
Rob. Knight.	Rector	1678 –
Francis Steevens.	Rector	1703
J, Heynes.	Rector	1709-1712
George Knight.	Rector	1714-1719
J. Peckard.	Minister	1734 and 1736
John Ridghill.	Rector	1773

There are various sums expended on parchment:-

1774 Register Book	6d
1778 For a skin of parchment	2s-0d
1786 etc. Paid for parchment	1s-0d
1819 Paid for Register	6s-0d
1822 To 4 half sheets of parchment for registering Baptisms, Burials, and Marriages	8s-0d
1831 etc.To sheet of parchment for Register	2s-6d
1845 To sheet of parchment for inserting Birth and Burials	2s-3d

Surely it was not, at this date, as it was from Feb. 1691 to April 1693, (two years and two months) that there were no marriages recorded in the Registers? In 159- the Curate wrote up the page as usual:-

“Christened….So many
Mariyed……. Not One
Buried ……So Many”

It is sometimes so, alas! Today.

The list of curates that follows is taken from signatures in the Transcripts and elsewhere:-

Reginald Wadington	Signed	1526	
Johannem Harrisonn	..	1562-3	
Johane Pelie	..	1565-6	
Alexander Howad	..	1570	
W.Willertonne	..	1585	
Radulphu Leader	..	1588	
Nicholas Martin	..	1591-95	
Johanem Rollinson	..	1596-1602	
Simonem Reade	..	1604-6	
Henriou Smith	..	1607	
William Widdew	..	1613-16	
William Ward	..	1617	
Alfred Partridge	..	1617	
John Ward	..	1618	
Samuel Wilson	..	1619-22	
Johem Cooke	..	1624-5	
Edward Gilder	..	1629-4	William
Hansted	..	1643	
Paul Pinder	..	1662	
John Manby	..	1667-8	
Nath. Noble	..	1713	
Des. Jones	..	1766	
Jno. Curtois	..	1767-70	
Andrew Chambers	..	1769	

The last 4 were incumbents of neighbouring parishes

A Bill was introduced into Parliament by Mr. Borlase in 1882 re old registers being kept in the Public Record Offices or Diocesan fire-proof registry. The archdeacons and rural deans of Lincoln sent out a circular to the clergy of the diocese, with

a view to opposing Mr. Borlase's bill and issuing a series of questions as to the state of the registers.
The list was drawn up by the Bishop of Nottingham, as the suffragan Bishop of Lincoln was styled at this date. He was also archdeacon of Stow and rector of Leadenham, Sleaford, where he lived. The list of questions for the report is dated 1st September 1886 and was received at Welbourn in October. Presumably an answer to them was sent, as part of a rough copy of it is extant.

Diocese of Lincoln
Archdeaconry of Lincoln
Rural Deanery of Longoboby
269 Parish of Welbourn
Report on the Parish Registers

1. In how many volumes are your Parish Registers contained?
2. Give a description of each volume.
   a) Whether written on parchment or paper.
   b) Mention the length and breadth of each volume and the number of its leaves, specifying if any of them are blank.
   c) Have any leaves or portion of leaves been cut away? If so, mention in how many instances, stating the number (or date) of the missing leaf or portion.
   d) Its binding and condition.
   e) The date of the first and last entries of the Baptisms, the Marriages and the Burials, in each volume.
   f) Are the entries made in regular and continuous order?
   g) Are any of the volumes transcripts, wholly or partly so?
   h) If so are there any indications of the dates of such transcription?
3. Does the incumbent's signature repeatedly appear? If so give the earliest and latest date of each successive

incumbent's signature and as far as you are able, give a list of the names of your predecessors.

4. Are the registers kept in the Church, Parsonage, or elsewhere and if you hold any benefice in plurality, where and by whom are the Registers of the second parish kept?
5. Are they kept locked up in an iron chest or some other dry and secure depository, not standing upon a stone, tile or brick floor?
6. Have copies of your Registers, or portions of them ever been taken and if so between what dates?
7. Are any remarkable occurrences mentioned, or peculiar entries made in your Registers? If so be pleased to mention them.
   September 1st 1886.

The Registers are kept in an iron, fireproof safe in the Vestry, locked, quite dry and in good condition. They are 14 in number. The last having a duplicate for 'marriage lines.'
Book one had been re-bound, about 20 years ago in dark brown leather, stamped Parish Register Welbourn A.D. 1561-1688. (noted 1933) The parchment leaves measure 14inches x 5 inches. There are 38 pages. The second is blank. The first has the date 1561-2 to 1688 and a heading, partly illegible showing that the first part of the book is a copy from the original entries.
"….Register of Christened, maryed and buryed…..the fourth….of her Majestys rayne…(1561-2) unto the yeare of our Lord God 1598 being in the rayne of her …….Elizabeth."
The man who writes this, signs each page, "per me Johem Rollinson, curatus." And adds, "finis an predontis." after his signature of 1599. He was licensed to Welbourn 5th Jan. 1588 and it seems that he set to work to carry out the spirit of the Injunction of the previous year. He wrote up the Register to date, signing it with his own name each year, with Richard

Kemp, his churchwarden as witness, while the Transcripts at Lincoln had been signed by his predecessors, who made them.
The next page begins with a notice, perhaps written by Francis Trigg, the rector. This writing does not appear anywhere else in the book, but his signature is in the Transcripts of this date.
"Whereas ever heretofore we began and ended our yeare of accoumptes for our Regester from one Feaste of St. Michaell th Archangell to an other. Here note that ever hereafter we begine to accoumpte our yeare, and make our Reckeninge for our Regester to begin and end at the Anunciation of the blessed Virgin marye: commonly called our Ladye Day: the Alteration whereof being allowed and give in charge of the Ordinarye, at Lincolne Ano Doni (1598) and in the fourteth yeare of her majes reigne:
So that this pesent yeare (1599) in this Regester takes his begininge from 25 of March wh is accoupted the first daye of the foresaid yeare (1599) and so to end the same daye twelve month. And so others to followe the same order in begininge and endinge."
Johem Rollinson has made his entries very neatly right across the page. Half of p. 7 is left for the year 1580, but for some reason has never been filled. All the essential names are given…William Burt & Agnes Letten was maryed," but the Mother's name was not included at a christening until 1633 and then it is put over the top until they remembered. Always it was eg. "Elizabeth, the daughter of Bartholomew Nisbet, baptized."
There are 5 or 6 different handwritings on as many pages, but only two of the curates sign. Simon Reade and Henrcu (Henrique) Smith, the latter making beautiful black letter, court-hand capitals to his headings and to many of his words.
The years 1618-1625 are largely illegible but the entries have been recovered from the Transcripts.
Edward Gilder, the next man who signs, was curate for many years. He seems to have been a native of the place and his

writing appears here and there. “William Hansted, Curat.” Whose writing is rather like a spider crawling over the page, signs in 1643. In 1644, the rector, Bartholomew Mitchell was ejected and a Soldier of the King was buried.

The next signature is John Headland. He was the carpenter and churchwarden. He and Mr. Gilder share the writing until the Secularization Act of 1653, made them call a meeting to appoint a Registrar. Robert Linsey was chosen for the post. He writes the next few pages very well, marrying his couples….a civil marriage, but not baptizing the children. They are simply ‘borne.’ And who shall say they were not ‘borne again,’ where faith lived on, in spite of the tyrant who forbade the forms and ceremonies of the people of our land?

The last baby ‘borne’ was Willin, the son of Thomas Turfitt, Yeoman, and Sara, his wife. Then in 1660 Edward Gilder comes into his own and signs Rector in Feb. 1662-3. He had signed himself rector in the Transcripts of 10 years before, 1652, but they would not be open to the Public Eye, as was the Register Book.

It is from Mr. Gilder we get the trades and occupations. He knew everyone and did no need to ask if one of two brothers was the shepherd or the weaver. His epitaph is quite simple. “Mr. Edward Gilder was buried.”

Mr. Robert Knight, 1678, began to write in the register in April 1683. In that year he baptized his eldest child, Alice, the daughter of Robert Knight, clerk, and Alice, his wife, Aug. 15th. The entry has been cut out of this Register, but is in the Transcripts. The bottom of several pages, 34, 35 and 38 have been cut off. All but one of the entries have been recovered and placed in the book.

There is no case of anyone having more than one Christian name and no ages are given in this Register. It is a very interesting book and the last page….possibly two, have disappeared before it was re-bound. It ends on 10th May 1688 and the next book begins 5th May 1689.

Mr. Knight keeps this new book in his own hands and the writing is uniform. The first two pages are ruled. He writes a deep heading to his first page:-

“Lincoln, Kesteven, Welbourne. Anno Do Guiliemi & Marie

The Regyster Booke for Christnings Marriages and Burials beginning on the 25th day of March in the first year of the reign of King William and Queen Mary over England etc. and in the year of our Lord God 1689.”

He is the first to keep the entries separate, but it makes it fatally easy to see the name of the baby baptized at the top of the page and buried at the bottom, not once, but time after time. He signs at the foot of each page as did the next man, Francis Steevens. More than once he wrote in the Register “Sir Edw. Hussey Bart & Dame Elizabeth, his wife” and had to alter the ‘Dame’ to “Lady.”
The next rector wrote the largest capital letters. His signature is remarkable, J. Heynes. The initial letters almost 1 inch high. To judge by it, he would be a character! He buries two running. Anthony and Thomas Turfett but it is not possible to tell if they are father and son or two brothers. Once again in this book there are no ages given.
There is one instance of more than one Christian name in 1723, when Mr. Baron Brittain and Avery, his wife named their twin sons Robert Audley and Baron Audley. This was to commemorate both branches of the family, a custom that was to grow increasingly in the next century.
Apparently the only other instance, up to 1812, is that of Richard Earl Welby, who signed the Register as witness at the marriage of his sister Millicent to John Ridghill, the rector. This book ends Feb. 1732. It is parchment, of 17 complete pages measuring 13 ½ x 6 inches.

The next Register is also parchment and in very good condition. From Lady Day 1733 to Lady Day 1782, it has 14 complete pages. J. Peckard and John Ridghill, rectors.
The churchwardens paid for a Register Book, 15/- in 1735. It would be this one. Christened, married and buried are kept separate. The entries of marriages cease in Feb. 1754 and continue in the 4th book, which is bound in rough calf, tooled and measuring 15`` x 9 ¾ inches, a beautiful book. There are 73 paper pages, 53 of which are unused. The last entry is 20th Oct. 1812, the date at which the two corresponding Registers end. This is because, "the date 1st Jan. 1813 is that on which the Registers of each parish start afresh, with a new set of books, supplied under Rose's Act". This means, in fact, the end of the old and the beginning of the modern Registers. This book is, besides being the Marriage Register, the Banns Book. At the top of each entry there are two lines for the Banns of Marriage.

Several times before 1800 the witnesses to a marriage were the churchwardens of the date, Edward Burton, George Brown etc. If they attended in their official capacity, the reason may be found in the Old Book of Accounts, "1751, two locks and two hinges for a box." When first invested with their key of office, no doubt they would be very particular to be present, for without their key and the rector's, the Registers could not be got at. Perhaps later on, when the clerk of that date, sometimes signed as a witness at 2, 3 or 4 weddings running, the second key was loaned to him or was kept in the church. Until 1812, the iron safe that was bought was in the church but now stands in the Vestry.
The 5th Register was bought in 1782 and cost 12s 6d. It is thin and bound in mottled paperboard, utterly unlike any of the others. It contains entries of christened and buried only. The first time that age is mentioned is here in 1792, for a burial. There is not a single signature in the whole book, but the

writing is that of the rectors who sign the marriage Register of the same date.
The 6th Register contains baptisms only, 1813. The corresponding book of marriage entries is only a quarter full. It had the line for "consent of parent's" or others, which is duly filled up.
The 3rd of this series of sheepskin bound Registers, tied with tapes coloured with age, contains the burial entries from 1813 to 1883 and has a column for age. It contains the signatures of four rectors, Ridghill, Hobart, Disbrowe and Leslie-Melville.

The next Register is a huge green bound book, 250 pages, marriage entries, but two thirds of the book was officially closed in 1918. In spite of this it contains four rector's signatures…Disbrowe, Leslie-Melville, Hancock and Puckridge.
The present (1933) baptismal Register is as white as the traditional christening robe, with gold lettering, 90 pages long and begun in July 1909.
The burial Register in use (1933) is an old book, clasped, begun in 1884.
In the old days it was not possible to tell the ages of those who married, but between many couples "of full age," there is quite a crop of young ones, in 1875, 1876. 24/19, 21/18, 21/22, 18/19. 18/20.

Neither bride not groom could write their name in 1869 and 1875, but sometimes before that the blushing bride must have given a proud assent to the question, 'can you sign here?' For often she signed her name, more or less on the line, while he made his mark. His names were written above and below it, by the rector or the clerk.
In 1897 a marriage was solemnized between a Welbourn lass and a lad from Fulbeck. His father's occupation is given as a

‘gardener’. D.S.K. is added, Distinguished Service Medal---well done Mr. Gardener.

Banns Books

“1825. To the new book for Marriage Banns 8s 0d. This book is 9½ x 7½ inches, 52 paper pages, bound in board. The last entry being May 1903, but two of the binding pages and a loose sheet have been ruled and filled, up to March 1904. These last 5 MS entries have been officially copied into the present Banns Book, which is a nice bound book in soft leather, tooled and gilt. It begins, as stated in 1903, and is not yet half full. (1903)

(The registers have continued to be kept up to date.)

Chapter V11

The Churchwardens of Welbourn

Richard Kempe signed the Register 1561.

Signatures in the Transcripts

Robert Paxton & Hughe Andrawe	1562-3
Thomas Kemppe & Hughe Andrawe	1565-6
Willm Clarke & ? West	1570
Thomas West & William Lettyn (Farmer)	1577
Richard West & John Lamb	1579
Willm Lane Jur, & Willm Lettine	1587-8
Willm Lane Jur. & Richard Kempe	1589
Thomas Paxton & Robert Dugmanton	1590
Thomas Paxton & Robert Andrews	1591
Henerye Lowe & Richard West	1592
Humphrey Locke & Thomas ?	1593
Willm Lane & Robert Storie	1594
Robert Taylor & Willm Baker	1595
Joseph West (Yeoman) & Thomas Glasior	1596
Robert Long & Thomas Simes	1597
Richard Kempe & Hugh Barton	1598-9
Richard West & Willm Layne	1600
Richard Kempe & Robert Porter	1601
Willm West & ??	1602
William Glasior & Thomas Couper	1603
Edward Storye & Thom. Gillian	1604
William Layng & Bernard Walker	1605
Joseph West (Yeoman) & Richard Lambe	1606-7
John Gillian & Ambrose Ashe	1608
Christopher West & Anthonye Lane	1610
Christopher Cook & Willm Lane	1612
John Jeffrey (Husbandman) &	

Anthonie Clarke		1612
William Glasier & Richard Lambe		1614
Thomas Jellian & Richard Lambe		1615
Thomas Gillian & ?? Porter		1616
John Taylor & Robert Blackborne		1617
Thomas Badger		1618
Richard Kempe (Yeoman) & John Je..		1619
Wlm Goodson & John Gillian		1620
Thomas Gyllan & Christ. Cooke		1621
Christ. West & John Stubbin		1622
Richard Smith &Joseph Good		1624
Robert Smith &Richard Lambe		1625
Robert Porter & Thome Gilliott		1626
John Newcome & William Andrewe		1627
Roger Dent (Weaver) & Henry Wrostler		1628
Thomas Hesaldine (Woolwinder) & Thomas Spines		1629
John Stubing & Thomas Gillian	Gard	
Robert Linsey &John Lambe		1632
Joseph Cooke & Joseph Good		1633
Edw. Burditte & Edw. Picker		1634
William Troughit & Christ. West		1635
Joseph Cooke & Francis Snath		1636
Roger Dent & John Massingham	Register	1637
Richard Doughty & Bernard Bell (Shepherd)		1638
Richard Dent & Richard Gillian		1640
John Stubbins & William Doughty		1643
Richard Blanie & Robt. Baker		1647
Henry Gilder (Yeoman) & John Headland (Carpenter)		1651
Anthony Turfett (Yeoman)		1652-6
John Niccols &Thomas Snath		1664
William Picker (Carpenter)	Inventory	1664
Richard Gillian & Rich. Clifton	Register	1665-6
John Headland	..	1668-9

Will Cappe (Tailor) & ? ..	1670-1
Robert Doughty ..	1674-5
Robert Westdall ..	1676
John Maples &	
Edward Blackborn (blacksmith) ..	1677-8
Richard Walker & Wilm. Bavin ..	1678
William Blaney (parish warden) &	
William Wilkinson ..	1679
William Blaney ..	16801
John Messingham &	
Anthony Turfitt(Yeoman) ..	1682-3
Isaac Elson (Miller) &	
Richard Richardson ..	1685
Richard Julian & Richard Richardson ..	1686-7
Johannis Chamberline & John Headland	1689-91
Geo. Thiecker & Robert Doughty ..	1692
Charles Laughton & Thomas Headland	1694-6 &1698
William Nottingham (Paver) &	
John Leivesley (Blacksmith) ..	1699-1700
Wilm Lane & John Turfet ..	1701-2
John Roberts & John Chamberline ..	1703-4
Thomas Shaw &	
Richard Challons (Shopkeeper) ..	1707-8
Thomas Cockfield & George Thacker ..	1709
Thomas Mabbott & George Thacker. Register	1710
Robert Pasey (sideman) & George Blaney	1712-13
Isaac Elsom & George Blaney ..	1714
Isaac Elsom & Richard Challands ..	1715
Thomas Handley (Gentleman) ..	1717
Thomas Palin & George Thacker ..	1719
Robert Burton & George Thacker ..	1720-1
John Hides (Tailor) &	
Anthony Killinle (Farmer) Sidesman ..	1726-7
Willm Wilkinson (Husbandman) &	
Anthony Killinle (Farmer) ..	1726-7

Daniel Wilkinson &
Thomas Brown (Gentleman) .. 1731- 5

1735-1869 From Churchwardens' Parchment Account Book

Robert Lawson & William Wilkinson 1734-5
William Green 1736-46
Edward Burton 1747-50
George Brown (Gentleman) 1750-83
and Robert Lawson 1751-5
and Richard Welby (Esquire) 1756-9
and Robert Fisher 1767-73
Thomas Crane (Gentleman) 1784-98
and Robert Mitton (Farmer)
John Johnson 1796-1819
William Mitton (Farmer) 1820-40
Thomas Newton 1820
William Mitton & John Palin 1826-31
William Mitton & John Wilson (Mason) 1833-36
William Mitton & John Kirk 1837-42
John Hodson (Shopkeeper) 1849-52
Joseph Booth (Parish Constable) 1843-56
George Thompson 1853-4
and Joseph Booth 1845-56
Francis Brand (Farmer) 1855-69
Joseph Rinder (Esquire) 1856-69
Fred Rolleson (Farmer) 1857
George Norris(Farmer) died 1865 aged 62
Wm. Thomas Lamb (Farmer) 1873-84
George Crosby snr.(Shoemaker) died 1916 aged 80
Newcome Morley (Esquire) &
Frank Crosby (Farmer) 1909-14
John Mountain (Esquire) 1913-17
Robert Chatterton (Esquire) 1914-18

Emily N. Need	1918-30
and Charles Hall (Shoemaker)	1918-19
Emily N. Need &	
Arthur Holmes (Stores manager)	1920-23
Emily N. Need & Hubert Bainton (Esquire)	1924-7
Emily N Need &John Bemrose (Esquire)	1928-36
Horace Crosby Confectioner)	1931
Wm. Musson snr. (Carpenter)	1936-

(A full up to date list of churchwardens is not available but some of those who have given of their time and service after 1936 are:-

Austin Pick (1940's – 50's)
Hugh Nicholas Close (1960's – 70's)
Derek Overton (1975-)
Reg Brealey (1975-)
Bill Goodhand (1975-
David Hugh Close
John Burrows
Alan Bull
Fran Brealey
Alison Short
Lynne Cartwright
Emma Brealey

There follows a gap in known records until 1982 when the Church Wardens are recorded as follows:-

Derek Overton and Reg Brealey 1982 -83
Reg Brealey and Peter Fridlington 1984-85
P. Fridlington and Bill Goodhand 1986-87
Bill Goodhand and Mr. Balmforth 1988-90

Bill Goodhand and David Close 1991-2003.

During that period there was an interregnum with the last service held on April 13th 1997 before the inauguration or liscencing of the new rector, Mr. Knight, on April 14th. The gap between rectors was ably filled by the Rural Dean, Clifford Knowles, Ben Lyte and on Christmas Day 1996, the Bishop of Lincoln took the service.)

The Church Wardens

With the exception of Kemp, Anthony Turfitt, and perhaps one or two others. All the signatures up to 1664 are thus :- Hughe Andrewe X His Mark

Churchwardens came into being in 1300, when the Parishioners first had to provide vestments, images, banners and so on. They had to keep the nave and side-aisles in repair. The Archdeacon, when he rode around on his Visitations, had to be satisfied as to these things. The Parishioners, wise men, chose two of their number to arrange these matters with Mr. Archdeacon.
These persons were called Church Reeves, then guardiani ecclesiae- wardens of the Church. Before the end of the 15th century, they became 'Churchwarden.'

He was a busy man in his year of office. The medieval churchwarden had to provide lights, minstrels and mummers for the great Feasts and Patronal Festivals of the Church. This was the popular merry-making of these times and the churchyard fairs made work for him. He had to do any repairs and replace any ornaments that had been broken….or perhaps stolen.
This cost a good deal of money, so they held Church Ale, a festive gathering, when cakes and small beer were sold by the churchwardens, to the parishioners. Sometimes the Lord of the Manor would provide a sheep or an ox for the feast. The Church Ale generally, paid most of the expenses for the year. Then came the looting of the churches and the breaking of the images and ornaments. Even the churches themselves did not altogether escape and much repair of the fabric kept the Churchwarden busy. Sometimes he himself became the zealous reformer and made his "beds and pin fold geates" out of the rails and rood beams, torn from their places.
Then he was made Overseer of the Poor and was set to relieve discharged soldiers etc. But when Puritanism frowned on the

Church Ales, he had to collect a Church Rate. He had to report all parishioners to the Archdeacon at his Visitation, holding Roman or Puritan doctrines. He hated it, being an Englishman first and a churchwarden afterwards.
The membership of the Vestry was later composed of Ratepayers. A new Poor Law Act was passed making the 'guardiani' the successor of the churchwarden. Then, the church rate was abolished by law, and all they had to depend on was the collection and voluntary offerings, for the upkeep of the parish church.
The Enabling Act was passed in 1919.
The Parochial Church Councils of today have taken over much of the business. The Incumbent and Communicant Churchwardens being ex-officio members, but the churchwarden is the parish's representative to the Diocese and the Bishop….a time honoured institution in the English Church.

The book of the 'Welbourn Churchwardens' Accounts' from 1735 to 1871 is full of interest. It measures 15 ½ x 6 inches. It has a parchment cover, sewn with string and cost 4/-. It is fairly tidy. The first few leaves have edges missing and nine leaves at the end are not filled. The first year's accounts take up three pages. "They" go to two visitations, they wash the lining (linen) and mend it twice a year. They spend a good sum on windows and 'bels'. The lether (ladder) takes some rearing and the powls (poles) some caring (carrying).
The following is a copy of the first years accounts, signed by the rector and inhabitants, vestrymen, who all eventually become churchwardens. The heading is beautifully written. William Wilkinson, although he has no Mr. before his name, like Mr. William Green, did his work uncommonly well.

The Disbursements of William Wilkinson Churchwarden for the year 1735

PAID

For this book to Mr. Wood	0-4-0
The largest poles, 2 at the rate of	0-7-6
2 poles	0-6-6
8 more poles	0-14-8
10 twelve foot Deails	0-14-2
Porterage for ye poles	0-1-6
Spent at the time	0-1-6
For my horse and myself to Lincoln	0-2-6
For fetching the poles and boards	0-7-6
Towl (Toll) for the wagon	0-0-8
Spent at the Court Day	0-3-0
To Isaac and John Headland	
For mending the bells	0-3-4
For nales	0-1-0
For wood	0-1-6
For a board	0-1-0
For a whip for William Parcer	0-0-6
My charges for the visitation and	
Mr. Peckards	0-5-0
Paid for asumons (a summons)	0-1-0
For book of articles	0-1-0
The precentmant bill	0-0-6
For five Breefs	0-6-0
Cort fees	0-3-0
Register bill	0-0-6
For cutinge up the weds in the strets	0-2-0
For clening the church lining and the	
Plat and mending the linings	0-4-0
William Percer half a years wage	0-2-0
For cutinge up the weds in the strets	0-2-0
My charge at the second visitation	0-5-0
For asumons	0-1-0
For 5 brefs	0-5-0

Cort fees 0-3-0
For a presentment bill 0-0-7
Mr. Peckards charges and my own 0-5-0
For a letter of request 0-1-0
Spent upon 5th November 0-5-0
For washing the church lining 0-2-0
For clening the plait 0-1-0
For clening the strets 0-2-6
For a beesam 0-0-4
Alaber (labourer) at the church 4 days 0-2-8
For weeding the church Cawsey 0-2-6
John Sharp wages 2-10-0
Spent of sum for removing the funt 0-1-6
Carring sum wod to gard the funt 0-1-6
A cartpinder for 1 days work 0-1-8
Spent of sum nebars (neighbours) when
They went to vew the church 0-1-6
Spent of sum men for caring the lether to
The church and rearing of it 0-1-6
For caring sum wod to the church 0-1-6
For shooting the fowl in the church 0-1-6
William Parcer hf years wage 0-2-6
For clening the strets 0-2-6
For a beesam 0-0-2
For fetching the Jack 0-1-6
For carring it home agane 0-1-6
To William Julion for repairing the church 3-5-0
Bred and wine at wit Sunday 0-8-4
For bred and wine at Crismas 0-8-4
For bred and wine at Easter 0-8-4 Spent
when the Lavey was stated 0-3-0
Alaber 2 days clening the church 0-1-4
Spent for removing the funt in the right place 0-1-0
For sum Sweet Licquer 0-0-6
For carring Robert Lawson lether home 0-0-6

Paid Isaac Hedland and John for 1 day	0-3-4
For wood for bells	0-1-6
For a beesam	0-0-2
For carring the powls and bords home	
Which we borrowed	0-1-6
John Hedland for 1 day	0-1-6
For two hand of two nals	0-0-4
Two hand of four penny nals	0-0-8
For making a bracket for the bels	0-0-6
Paid Robert Ricroft	0-9-9
For a Register book	0-15-7
For 3 rops	0-7-6
For washing the linings	0-3-0
For one hundred of cols	0-1-6
To the pallitter for is hedland	0-5-0
Spent of the pallitter	0-1-0
Alaber for 4 days	0-2-8
Spent of the Jury when we weit ought	0-5-0
For 4 strike of limeand fetching	0-1-10
Pade to Widow Alcock	0-3-0
Pade to ye Blacksmith	0-2-6
Pade to Robert Ricroft more	0-2-0
Pade to Robert Lawson for going to	
Ye visitation	0-2-6
Pade to William Julion more	0- 11-0
Pade a laborer two days	0-1-4
Fr whrighting (this account)	0-4-0
For gathering ye Lavey	0-2-0
The amount of ye Disbursums	19-13-9
Received by Leavy	15-0-0
For Boards and Poles	1-8-0
Received in all	16-8-0

Due to ye Old Officer 3-5-9

April ye 27 1736
Allowed these Accounts pas,

J. Peckard
Wm. Green
Thos. Brown
Wm. Mitton

Visitations were held at various centres. The usual fees were 3s. 2d. Churchwarden Thomas Crane, in 1785 attended no less than three visitations with "charges" , accordingly. The first took place at Welbourn. Fees 4s. There were two others held at Easter and St. Michael. The fees from 1820-1840 varied from 13s 5d. to 15s.5d. a time. Today (1933) they are 12s. 6d. or 7s. 6d. cash.

The Prayers of the church were asked constantly for all sorts of things, and Thanksgiving offered. Briefs or requests for help were read out and contributions given. A yellowed slip of June 7th 1793, is a Receipt to the churchwardens of Wellborne for 16s.6d being the response to six briefs.

A Book for ye Fast Day occurs often 1739-45 2/-
1740.A book of prayers for Prince Frederick 2/-
1741. Spent when the news came of ye takeing of Carthegena 5/-
1742. A book from Lord Beshop of Lincoln 2/-
1743. Paid ye Reyooing (Reckoning?) for ye Battls att Dettingen (Geo.11) 5/-
1746. May 15th.paid for a book for the Thankesgiveing Day, (Culloden?) 1/-
1748. Prayer for the Beast 1/-
1751. Paid for a form of Prayre for the Prins of Wales 1/-

1751. Paid for a form of Prayre for
the Princes 1/-
1757. Paid for the Act against Swearing 1/-
1760. For three books of Prayers 3/-
1742 and 1752. A collection for ye
Gospel for foring (foreign) parts 15/-
And £1-11-6
1827. Postage of a letter from Hull 10d

In 1854 they "Paid Mrs. Crosbys Bill for Riteing these Accounts." 2/-
However, this is not her spelling. This member of a well-known Welbourn family wrote a copperplate hand and her spelling was excellent.
The churchwardens' accounts often include other things than work done purely for the church. In the olden days, the clergy being the only learned people, the church kept the school. They were the scribes and the physicians. Public Health has always been in the forefront of the church's activities. One of the chained books given by the rector of Welbourn in 1583 is an ancient treatise on Dental Surgery.
An enquiry in in 1588 asked, "whether any physicians or surgeons practice physic or surgery without license of the Ordinary." (The Bishop) So the church was the first Medical Association and from this the Parish Doctor started, followed by the Poorhouses. Welbourn had 19 cottages and six gardens let at 6d or 1/-p.a. Also six cottages were let at 10/-p.a. by the churchwardens and overseers.
A Paper from the House of Commons dated as late as 1822 is addressed to the Churchwardens and Overseers of Welbourn, Lincoln. In 1825 the churchwarden and Mr. Burtt, the overseer, paid a bill from Messrs. Tallents and Beevor, for drawing up a notice to quit one of the parish houses.
The contract for maintenance of the poor in 1824 was £105, plus £5 left, depending on satisfactory management. The

paper is signed, "Received 12th of the 5th mon (month) Jonathan Burtt." On the back of the paper are written some notices, one of which reads, Resolved, "that R.B. (the contractor) be allowed £4 only instead of £5, the meeting being dissatisfied with his allowance of coal to John Winter." John and Ann Winter lived in one of the Poor Houses. She died in January 1826, and was buried by the parish.

Jan 21st. "For a Parish Coffin for Ann Winter 1826, settled Wm. Lunn."	£1-1-0
Jan 21st. Mr. Tompson (the overseer) for Ann Winter's funeral	
Jan 21st. 3 yards flannel	£3-0-0
.. ½ oz. worsted	£0-0-11/2
.. ½ lb sugar	£0-0-10
.. Bread	£-0-0-6
.. ½ lb butter	£0-0-6
Jan 23rd ½ lb sope	£0-0-31/2
.. 1lb lump sugar	£0-1-0
.. 2oz tea	£0-1-0

Settled March 21st 1826
Kath Sibey

There are bills for the Poorhouses and the 'Workhouse'. One very neatly written receipt on a scrap of paper reads,

"1824. March 21st	to Charles Fox
1 cwt, 3 st, 4lb Lead to Pump at 42s for Workhouse	£3-15-0
6lb solder	£0-6-0
Bucket and Sucker	£0-7-0
Time Self and Apprentice	£0-5-0
Aug.21st 3ft. 9ins Glass leaded)	£0-2-3
14 squares glass in Poorhouse)	£0-3-6
	£4-18-9

1825 March 25 Received the above.
Charles Fox”

Another receipt reads:

1824. To a ladder stave	0-1-6
A new pump frame and	
Fixin to the Workhouse	1-7-6
2 new boards for beds	0-4-6
a bed coardin	0-0-4
3 chares New Bottom in	0-6-0
	£1-19-10

1825. Settled Wm Lunn

A Deal table with fall leafe	0-15-0

Richard Picker

To a arm night chair and pan	
For the Parish	0-18-0

1826 Robt Picker

The Parish Doctor was Dr. C. Smith. His bills are numerous. Annual attendance to the parish cost the overseer £10-0-0, due every March. In 1824 Dr. Smith was paid £8-1-0 for inoculating 46 children as per list delivered at 3/6. The account for that year has “By subscriptions recd. To defray the expense of Inoculating those Families that don’t belong the Parish, £1-6-6” and a paper headed ‘Subscriptions, as above, read:

Revd H.J. Disbrowe	0-10-0
Mrs. Ridghill	0-5-0
Mr. Brown	0-10-0
John Hodson	0-0-6
	£1-6-6

There are items, “Fever Powders,” 1824, and four leeches. “Surgical attendance for a Fracture of the L(e)g, Challens, £1-0-0. Eye water Black 1s-3d”
In 1827 a bill for £3-18-0 is crossed put, presumably paid privately. It is for “Long Surgical attendance a Mortification leg Lawson.”_
A fractured arm and plasters for Fletcher’s son cost £0-10-0
It would seem that Welbourn could say, like another parish account did, “We have no unlicensed Practitioners of Physick.”

Joseph Booth, sometime churchwarden, was in 1827, the parish constable. A bill to John Elson of 9s-3d is for the year’s passengers. “2 meals 1s. Supper 9d. Bed 3d” and the account from the Chief Constable in 1826 was for £13-9-8 to pay for vagrants, Marshalsea,* Militia (crossed out) repair of county goal, House of Correction at Falkingham, Press etc and Acquittances. The little yellowed receipts, more than 250 years old read,
“Recd ye 9th Day of Janry 1710 of ye Constable of Welborne for plow Day sessions fees: for vagrants Goal and Marshalseas, for warrents & Acquitts: ye sume of £2-7-0 ½

By me Rich. Robinson”

Rec’d ye 3rd Day of October 1710 of Constable of Welborne for Mich: Sessions fees: warrants and Acquitts: ye sume of £2-7-0 ½

Signed as above.

Mrs. J Burtt has a rate book, which gives particulars of the collection of the Poor Rate of 1853. On the first page is written, “ A Valuation of the Property in the Parish of Welbourn in the County of Lincoln rateable to the relief of the

Poor, made by George Norris, John Burtt and Edward Burtt, a committee appointed by the Parishioners for that service at a mtg. held on the 15th day of Oct. 1853."
The churchwardens, who naturally paid for "laying a Channel in the churchyard, " seem to have paid, perhaps in a dual capacity, the Highway Accounts. Pointing the church, spouts, license for banns, etc are mixed up with
£2-5-0, which they paid Wm. Lunn for "2 Gide Posts with 2 harms Paintin, Letterin and fixin." Where did they 'Gide'to? In 1826 they repaired the beck stone pavement, and two years later "self and son" Joseph Booth, worked 12 days for £1-9-0 at "the tunnel and beck-cosway." Is this the overflow from the beck?

Robert Turgoose was a substitute for the parish of Wellingore. A paper dated 1821 certifies, "The Overseers of the Parish of Welbourn or whom it may concern" that Robert Turgoose is now serving in Captain Calcrafts Company of the Royal South Lincolnshire Militia as a substitute for the Parish of Wellingore. Signed F. M. Davis Lt. Acting Adjutant. Mrs. Turgoose was paid by the Welbourn Overseers.

Smocks and crutches were provided by them for a poor boy, and another was apprenticed: see Lincoln Diocesan Magazine April 1932 p. 58

No doubt they had to act in the case of a public nuisance, and assess a fine, in the case of anyone annoying the highway with a swine sty, or for suffering his wall to ly down. 1/- was the fine for a man, "letting his sheepe trespasse in the severalls fieldes" of which even the parson, Mr. Francis Trigg was sometimes guilty.
In 1751 the churchwardens paid "to ye "Rat Merchant (catcher) £1-18-0."

*(The Marshalsea was a notorious prison (1373-1842) in Southwark just south of the River Thames. Although it housed prisoners, accused of many crimes it was notorious for the poorest London debtors. It looked like an Oxford College but was run as an extortion racket and was run for profit. The richest had access to a bar, shop and restaurant while the poor, crammed into nine small rooms, starved, as their prison debts increased. Charles Dickens based several of his characters on inmates…including his own father. Much of the prison was demolished in the 1870'. A library now stands on the site, replacing "the crowding ghosts of many miserable years.")

Chapter V111

Confirmation

Confirmation, or the laying on of Hands, has been traced back to the 5th century. In this vast Diocese of Lincoln, in the early days, young people would be brought to the Bishop to be confirmed by him, at his Visitation at the various centres of the population. Welbourn, of course, went to Lincoln. In the first accounts it was a whole day's outing and dinner was no small part of it.
The rector and churchwardens attended the Visitations twice a year, at Easter and at Michaelmas. But it is in 1748 that "The Young People" first appear.

1748. Charges at the Bishop's Visitation	£0-13-8
Mr. Peckard's charges and my own (Edward Burton)	£0-10-0
Charges for the young peopel at ye same time	£1-0-0

The young people rode in a wagon. The confirmation was held every six or seven years, and so up to 1757 they paid the turnpike a penny halfpenny and then 1d. on the road to Lincoln. "Towl (toll) for the wagon" in 1735 had been 8d. A load of asphalt paid 2/6d at the Toll Bar – South Bar, the southern entrance to the confines of the city. A laden ass paid 4d. The coach and four from London, 132 miles away, on any Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday, "having stopped about 4 hours on the road to sleep," and baited and perhaps change horses at The George at Leadenham, would halt a moment to pay its dues. It would continue to go on past St. Botolphs and over the River Witham, to drop off its passengers at some fashionable hostelry.

“ 1770. For the Young People Dinning and Ale, £0-16-0.” In 1791 dinner for 26 young people at the Bishop’s Visitation cost £1-6-0, for carrying them to Lincoln 5/-, Mr. Ridghill’s charges that time 5/-. The word ‘confirmed’ comes only in 1815. That year the dinner cost £2-16-0 and the carrying of them £0-14-0.

They did it in style in 1825. The ‘carriage’, probably a great farm wagon, with a bench down each side for seats. The lads and lasses dressed in their best clothes, excited and shy, 30 in all with 2 or 3 of the bigger lads up in front with the driver, it was no wonder it took ‘self’, Mr. Churchwarden Mitton, a deal of pride to get them there. His three horses, fine animals, especially groomed and dressed for the occasion, with their manes and tails plaited with bright colours and the jingling harness polished till it shone. “To Mr. Cheetham Lincoln for 32 dinners at Confirmation £2-9-0.”

In 1828 the Visitation lasted 2 days. “July 31st pd. Mr. Harmston Lincoln for 24 dinners at Bishop’s Visitation and Confirmation £1-16-0. (Most likely it was in the Cathedral). To my charges same time, 7s.6d. Ditto for conveying the children to Lincoln in wagon and 2 horses 15s.0d. To Mr. Disbrowe’s expenses at the same time 10s-0d. Aug 1st fees 16s-2d. My own and John Palins expenses same time 14s-0d.”

In course of time the Bishop came out to each Deanery in turn. In 1831 the Confirmation was held in Leadenham.
“19 July 1834 to my charges attending the children to Leadenham to be confirmed 3s-0d.” The same up to 1847 and the last of these entries in the old book of accounts is “1863 confirmation 16s.6d.” written up by Mr. Rinder, churchwarden and signed, Henry Disbrowe, Chairman, at Vestry, 22 March 1864.

A Confirmation Service was held at Welbourn in 1890 etc and in 1914, 1921 and 1929.

Chapter 1X

The Churchyard

An old churchyard such as that at Welbourn is often older than the church. When the church was built it was set on the North side, that its shadow might fall clear of the graves. That is a proof of an old churchyard. The cross was usually set up in the middle.
The churchyard at Welbourn, before the late extension, was bounded on all sides by stonewalls, with one stone style on the East and the double doors on the South. It was extended on the S.W. side on May 16th1924. One fifteenth of an acre, was given by the rector, out of the adjacent glebe field. The 'raving' and re-building of the wall, the short fence, fees, faculty, etc came to £84-13-0. This was in spite of the gift of the land - a practice, which ought to be disallowed, as it lessens the value of the living for all time.

In some places it is still the custom to turn sheep into a churchyard to crop the grass. In 1853 this churchyard was rated as 'pasture'. In the Terrier of 1708 it is said "the Town repair the….. churchyard", it is the parish burial ground and it is well kept.

In 1737 they paid the carpenter " for making ye ch-yard stile and setting down the same 1/-." In 1771 a new door for the churchyard cost 5/6 and iron for the same 5/4. Four years later "Mr. Priestley's bill for ye churchyard Doors £3-7-7." The Blacksmith for irons for same 5/4. About 1932 a small gate was put into the E. side, for access to the stoke hole.
The walls needed a lot of attention the 1700 and in 1833 mortar leading for churchyard walls, at 10d. a load was 7/11. 19 loads of water for same at 4d. was 6/4. For fetching Mr.

Burtt's watercart from Wellingore 1/-. A load of stones for same from North pit 1/-. Ten years later the like was 5/-.
John Allen, the clerk received 2/6 each year for sodding graves. In 1848 he was paid £1-7-0. Perhaps there was greater mortality that year.
The Fairs that were held in churchyards are mentioned under 'St. Chad.'
Thank God for the peace of an old country churchyard, with the old headstones that harmonize with their surroundings. The caw of the rooks on the belfry tower; the song of the bird in the tall tree and the memory, to most, of a quiet committing of a loved one to Mother Earth – until the Day break.
A tiny girl came across the grass to a lady who was tending a grave, one summer evening. For several moments she stood watching in silence, hands behind her. Then extending one hand, full of field daisies, she asked,00 "is this YOUR grave?" Receiving an answer in the affirmative, she offered her wild flowers. "Would you like to have THESE for your grave?"
Another long silence and then, "Mr.000000 Blank's grave is over there," pointing, "an he's stan's on his," in a shocked little voice.
She was thinking of reverence but in N. Lincolnshire it is considered UNLUCKY to tread on the graves, which may perhaps be called worldly reverence. But the child's thought was best.

(In 1993 The Lincolnshire Naturalists Union undertook a study on St. Chad's Churchyard, named,

Churchyard Wildlife Management—a case study.

This was edited by Marianne Overton, with delightful illustrations by John Mighell. This survey covered all aspects of wild life from bats and moths, mammals and birds and litchens and shrubs/trees. Suggestions were given to

encourage more wildlife, from the bottom of the food chain to the top. However it was deemed to be an attractive area with ancient stonework, mature trees and small areas of unkempt grass, ideal for many species.)

Chapter X

Memorials: County and Parochial

The Soldier's Cross in the churchyard and the Oak Tablet on the North wall inside the church, were erected in 1919 and 1920. They are to the Memory of the eleven men who gave their lives in the Great War. There is also a Memorial in the Wesleyan Chapel.

The Cross is of Clipsham Stone. The architect was Mr. Weatherley, F.S.A. of London. The carving at the head of the cross follows the lines of the best work in the church. The unveiling is described under the head of Sir William Robertson. (see also P 240)

The Tablet in the church, by Messr. Mail and Sons, was unveiled by Mr. James Walker, who had lost two sons in the war. It was dedicated by the rector, whose only son was named there, too. The Preacher was the Reverend Canon Powel Smith, vicar of Wellingore, another of the many Lincolnshire clergy to lose sons in the war. The inscription on the tablet reads,

"This Tablet is erected to the Glory of God and in Undying Memory of

Nov. 1914. George Walker
1915. Robert Pickering
1916. William Bailey
Sydney Musson
Cyril Puckridge
1917. Walter Harris
Cecil Lamb
Albert Preston

William Heneage
James Turner
Sept. 1917. Christopher Walker

Who fell in the Great War in the Service of their King and Country
"Live thou for England We for England died"

The only soldier's grave in the churchyard is that of Cecil Lamb, L/C Lincs. Regt. who died in Hospital aged 25. They brought him back home and buried him with his military honours 22 Jan. 1917. His grave is at the West end of the churchyard.
A great Service of Memorial was held in Lincoln Cathedral after the war. All parents and next of kin were invited to attend and no one who went will ever forget it. The Prince of Wales opened the newly restored chapels in the North Transept. St George, St Andrew and St Michael. There hang the battle-honours of The Lincolns and many a gift of loving memory.
There are two Books of Remembrance. The first contains the Roll of Honour of Officers, Warrant Officers and other ranks of the Lincolnshire Regiment, of whom nearly nine thousand died during 1914-1919. There are ten Battalions and the number of the Battalion must be known when looking up a name. The beautiful cover of this book was given by General Simpson, C.B. Hon. Colonel of the Lincolnshire Regiment. It cost £19.
The second book contains the Roll of Honour of all men (7,050) in the County of Lincoln, (not in the Lincolnshire Regiment) in the Crown Forces who died fighting in the Great War. 1914-1919.

p. 403 Welbourn,
Preston
Pickering

Puckridge
Turner
Walker”

The carpet and hangings of the chapel of St. Michael are in Air Force blue and the badge…the wide-spread wings on their wheel, is beautifully embroidered on the Altar Frontal.
Memorial Services held in Welbourn are listed under ‘Kalendar’.

(Following the Second World War 1939-1945, a second Roll of Honour was erected adjacent to the first one. It carries the names of

Sydney Harvey,
Noel Alfred G. Wilberforce
Herbert J. Doughty.

They gave their lives in the service of their King and Country.)

In 1790, Captain Cragg visited Welbourn church and village. He wrote, “The church appears an ancient building with a spire, in which are no memorials particularly remarkable except one upon a brass plate…..who died in 1517” What a pity this is lost. It is before the earliest Parish registers.
Gervase Hollis, born at Great Grimsby1606, died 1674, made a valuable collection of notes of many of the Lincolnshire churches. The series is not complete by reason of him having taken part in the Civil War. In 1634 and 1642 he described 3 windows and monuments in Welbourn church.

“Welburne
Prior de Eye Norwic Dioces.
Patronis ab antique.”

The South window of the then chancel has the coat of arms, only described, but the others are fuller.

"In Finestra boreali superori"etc

In the North upper window are the arms of Beaumont Quarterly, Beaumont and Bogham. Sometime Lord of the Town.

Translation of the inscription:-

"Here lieth William Worthington_, who died 4th day of … ember, Anno Dom 1550 and Johanna, his wife, who died 4 day of September 1557.
Here lieth Dr. William Mike (Mooke) Prebendary of the Church of York, and also Rector of this Church, who died 30th day of March Anno Dom, 1545 on whose soul the Lord have mercy.
Here lieth Nicholas Baily, who died 14th day of October Anno Dom 1557."

William Worthington is described as a husbandman-farmer, in the Audley Pedigrees. His son married Margaret Audley.

In 1549 the Cathedral dignitaries, sitting chapter-wise in the Common Room of the Cathedral, granted to the said William Wurthyngton an Indenture for a messuage in Welborne belonging to the fabric of the Cathedral, (part of John de Welborn's gift) for 31 years from Saturday 31 August Chapter day A.D. 1549.
In 1561 William Worthington, yeoman, of Welborne, is among the list of Lincolnshire freeholders.
Nicholas Baily was the patron of the living when Nicholas Field was the rector 1547-8. There was another inscription to his memory, which General Loft saw in 1832. But the brass has disappeared and the stone is now at the foot of the chancel

steps. His will was proven in Lincoln Consistory Court in 1558.

To continue:- “In Fenestra orientali cancelli etc.
In the East window of the Chancel Pray for the good estate of William Clarke, Rector of the church of Welburn & Chaplain.” William Clarke died in 1538.

The brass to the memory of Canon Leslie Melville is placed on the wall above where he used to preach before the pulpit was moved to its present position.

All the old brasses have gone except one, so heavily studded into the floor that perhaps it was found immoveable. It is to the memory of Henrietta Riley 1696. The brass to Robert, her husband, who died in 1702, was near it in 1833. It bore the epitaph**, “Prepare to follow for He know the debt that He hath paid you owe.”**
Henrietta’s brass has the arms supported on the dexter (right) side by a winged hourglass and on the sinister (left) side by a skull and cross-bones. The inscription below reads, **“Here lieth the body of Henrietta late wife of Robert Riley of Welbourn Esq. who exchanged this life for a better the 3rd of June 1690.”**

And below in small text is:-

“If youth and Virtue cou’d not save
A fruitful woman from the grave
Reader prepare for you must be
Subjected to Death’s Tyrannie.”

They were married on 25th July 1675-6. She had at least ten children, six of whom died in infancy. Twice over they named a boy Robert, because the first one died. Also Alice and Richard, being the names of the grandparents. This surviving

Richard is the Ricardo Riley de Welbourn, 1720 named on the brass in the chancel. His daughter Alice married Robert Knight, the rector, who died in 1703. Their memorial is the marble one on the South side of the chancel, in Latin. (see page 37.)

The little brass on the wall by the South door was loose. It was placed there for safety in 1929, near where it used to be on the floor. A pretty story can be woven round this brass that is 230 years old.
"Here lieth the body of Mrs. Eliz. Atkinson of West Retford, in Nottinghamshire, who departed this life on 12 of June 1705 being the 22 years of her age." The Register, where 'Occupation was always given, reads, "Elizabeth Atkinson Servant Bur." It was not every servant that got buried inside the church. It took a family of some consequence to do that, and not every one that did, had a brass plate. Atkinson was an old Welbourn name. One of their men had died 'for ye King' in 1644. This girl of 22 was a valued maidservant. Was she a second "little maid who waited on a Naaman's wife?"
Sir Edward Hussey and Dame Elizabeth, his wife and the children, lived at the Manor in 1705.
There were the Welby's but they buried themselves and their servants in the North aisle. There were also the Swans and Mr. Thomas Brown and his family.

A worn out inscription on a tomb near the entrance to the tower staircase, is that of Elenor Hutton aged 17, bur. 16 Aug 1707, daughter of Thomas and Henry Hutton of Borrill, co. Lincoln.

Wind and weather have obliterated the wording on most of the old headstones in the churchyard. There is one, dated 1810.

Let friends forbear to mourn and weep,
While in the dust we sweetly sleep.
This toilsome world we leave behind
Hoping Eternal rest to find.

Relict 1820 aged 76

Eternal God guide thou the mind
Of those that I have left behind
And grant the power of thy word
May incline their souls to seek the Lord.

Aged 3 years, also 10 months:-

When the Arch Angel's Trumpet sounds
And souls to bodies join
Then crowds will wish their stay below
Had been as short as mine (altered to) **Ours.**

For the two dear little mites.

The following list was made by General Loft in 1832.

Welbourn Church – Graves and Tombstones.

Chancel

1. Francis Stevens Rector 1709

2. Nicholas Baylye 1557 (b
3. George Knight
4. Mrs. Alice Knight 1688
5. J. Peckard M.A. 1765

North Wall

7. J. Peckard. M. Peckard 1757
8. Elizabeth Disbrowe 1823 Augustus Disbrowe 1828

South Wall

9.Alice Knight nee Riley 1688 Robert Knight 1703
George Knight 1720 with shield of arms.

Nave

10. Robert Riley 1702 (brass shield)
11.Henrietta Riley 1696 (brass)
12. Eliz. Atkinson 1705 (brass)

West End

13. Elinor Hutton 1707 (brass)
14. Mr. Wm Green 1746
15.Eleanor Morley 1826. Mary Brown Morley 1805
16. Eliz Swan 1757. Richard Swan 1759.
? Swan 1701
17. Thomas Brown 1770. Ann his wife 1765
Mary Brown 1811
18. Thomas Brown etc 1752
19. Elizabeth Brown 1771

South Aisle

20. William Rudd 1720
21. Robert Audley 1702. Mary Rudd 1729

West End

22. Mary Booth nee Beale 1805. John Beale 1808
23. Mary Brown Morley
24. Eleanor Morley 1805

North Aisle, Tablets

25. Richard Welby 1780
26. Ann Welby 1805

Floor

27. Selina Welby 1759
28. Philip Redford (servant) 1739
29. William Bainbridge (servant) 1622

South Aisle West End

30. Mary Brown 1805. (Tablet)

Churchyard

S. E. End. 1. Benjamin Maw 1828
2. Mary Shaw 1827
3. William Bavin 1827
S. Side 4. Frances Woofitt 1827
5. Richard Woofitt 1826
6. Hanson Minnitt 1829
S.W. Corner next the porch
7. Mrs. Ann Green 1826

S. side 8. Mary Kirk 1827
West 9. Sarah Sibey 1827
10. Robert Sibey 1826

Chapter X1

Inventory Ancient and Modern.

Church Room **Customary Fees**

Church Goods etc
Silver

	Avoir	Troy
Chalice (Canon Parry dated Elizabeth 1 or earlier. Of. Goods of the Chantry 1526)	6 oz	5 oz
Paten	6 oz	5 oz
E.P. Paten for credence	9 oz	8 oz
'Flagon' Glass, silver mounted		
Oak Bread Box		

Pewter. Not in use

Flagon (leaking) 1609	3lb	13 oz	avoir
Plate	1lb	3 oz	..
Plate		15 oz	..
E.P Flagon	1lb	8 oz	..

Embossed brass alms dish 1913
2 oak collecting plates
1 green collecting bag
Fair lines cloth
Various cloths
Brass refectory tablecloth
2 pair brass flower vases
Oak communion table
Oak refectory table 1909-10

2 oak sanctuary chairs
3 oak kneelers
Oak table in vestry
Queen Anne table
Oak altar book desk 1914
Oak reredos 1930
Oak hymn board and number box
Organ stool and music box
4 frontals
2 pulpit falls
3 Bible markers
1 large lectern Bible
1 large Common Prayer 1913
1 altar office book 1913
1 Banns book
Iron safe, I key, 1812. £6-4-6
14 registers
2 pairs of steps
Wheel bier 1912, £12
Visitors book
Moneybox on wall and key
2 organ keys
2 South door keys
1 West door key
1 Tower Key
Cupboard in vestry and 2 keys
Frontal box and key
Laths for window decorating
2 step boards
Wall bookshelf
Lectern, £12

There are one or two other things that used to be kept in the church, of which mention is made in the old book of accounts:-

A Church Chest. “two locks and two hinges for a box 1s-4d” 1751. The two locks were put on these ancient chests, so that the rector could hold one key and the churchwardens the other. They were often very handsome ‘boxes’, bound and ornamented with brass or iron. Some were elaborately carved, immensely thick and heavy, raised from the floor, which was often damp, on broad feet or boards.
This chest is mentioned in the old book of the Trustees of William Sparrow’s will. In 1697-8 and in 1708 “the monies of Mowbray and Sparrowe “ were kept “in ye chest of ye church.” And it stood in the chancel, locked, in 1832. In it would be kept the Registers in the old days. Any documents or deeds, wills of parishioners, terriers, and anything else that was considered to be of value.

The Dog Whip was another thing. In 1725, and no doubt for many years before that, was a note saying, “paid for a wip for William Parcer 6d,” His half-year’s wage was 2s-6d. He was the Parish Official whose duty it was to whip the dogs, which might intrude during service, out of the church.
In 1756 they “pd to the dog wiper 3s 0d.” 1761 to 1777 “to the Dogwipher 3s od.” Then the entry “paid to Wm. Parker for wiping ye dogs 8 months 2s 0d.” So, that for 40 years that old man wielded the dog whip but is seems that the office of dog-whipper in Welbourn died with him.
In the Registers of Aslackby is the following:-
“1675 G. is chosen by consent of the town to whipp out the doggs of the church, and awaken those that sleep and he is to have 1s. per quarter pd. by the churchwardens.” How did he do it? Welbourn was evidently better behaved!
William Parker, above, was one of those to receive small sums of the Sacrament money, which churchwarden Richard Welby sets out in full in 1757. Widow Headland was another recipient, and Widow Emmans, North Lane and many others.

The Sacrament seems to have been administered 5 or 6 times a year and chiefly in the winter months. The money totaled 10/- and 12/-, and at Easter £1-2-8d. Abigal Freiks received a whole 2/-, “in the time of sickness,” and that was a lot in 1757.

Another thing kept in the church was the Parish Coffin, which with the Pall, was let out as required, for conveying a body decently to church. The body was afterwards buried in a shroud and the coffin returned to the church for future use. They bought a new Pall in 1757, “pd for a Parish Pall £1-7-10,” and another 10/6 was given afterwards. It was decently cremated nearly 200 years later. Its use, fortunately, having been abolished by custom.

Another thing was the Musket, which in 1590 Welbourne had to supply under the subsidy of armour, “Mr. Franciscus Trigge, Welborne Rectoria, a musket.” His incumbency fell in the stirring times of the Spanish Armada. Although the clergy themselves were not liable to serve in person, they were required to provide some weapon or piece of armour, for use in case the Spaniards invaded England. This is the only musket listed for the whole deanery of Longoboby. Most parishes were required to furnish a Bowe.
Practice with these weapons used to take place on Sundays after Service. In the time of war every able-bodied man was called upon to follow his lord. The rector, Francis Trigg, a scholarly man himself, would walk in his black gown, down the churchyard path, between lines of young men waiting to take their turn with ‘the musket’. Perhaps he paused a moment or two on his way home, to praise the proficiency of one or another.
It is quite probable that young men came from the surrounding parishes. Men who would be skilled bowmen, but who wanted to practice with a more up to date weapon. Mr. Anthony

Audlye would show them how to load it etc, and then stay himself or leave a deputy, who was responsible for seeing the musket was returned to the safe custody of the church.
The Longbow had been prescribed as the natural weapon of the yeomanry in the Assizes of Arms in 1252, but in the last 15 years Archery had been dying a natural death. Finally in 1597 orders were received by the Lords Lieutenant, no longer to accept as properly equipped, any member of the County Militia who came furnished with bows and arrows alone.

The 'scold' and the ducking stool were kept in the church as well as the 'key' to the stocks. All these punishments were common. The Welbourn stocks stood on the Green just beyond the Manor. A man was seen in them in about 1860.
The Big Whip with which offenders were punished was also kept in the church. In July 1817 the Act to abolish Public Whipping of Female Offenders was passed. A local girl stole some calico in 1789. The Assizes in Lincoln ordered her to be whipped.
The Great Fire Hooks stood in one corner of the church. A man would rush to the church to notify the neighbourhood of a fire by the clamour of the bells. Another would rush for the great hooks to pull off the thatch of the low built cottage, if such it was, or the near-by rick. The little houses were built near together, often in a depression of the ground and a fire in one meant danger to them all. Over and over again the Welbourn accounts state "pd to a Pore Woman that had a loss by fire 6d." or "given a man that had a loss by fire 6d." It seems to have been the usual subscription from the church funds. 6d. meant something very different then to what it does today! No doubt others helped them too. There was one poor old man who was burnt to death in his thatched cottage not more than a hundred years ago. (written in 1933)

The Church Room was built on Glebe land, part of the Hall orchard in 1912. The site value is £10. There is no endowment – the lettings pay for the up-keep. It is vested in the rector and the churchwardens for the time being. It consists of a fair sized room, a porch and a coalhouse behind, fencing on three sides, stone wall with a wooden door on the street. It is built and roofed with corrugated iron, lined with match-boarding, with a good board floor. The billiards table within, with the balls, cues and cue rack and iron, were presented to the Men's Club by Claud Norton, esquire in 1912. The members own their lamp and there is a silver challenge cup, presented by James Dawson, esquire, for annual competition. All else belongs to the room. A bagatelle table, balls and cues; 1 deal table, 1 bamboo table, folding card tables, chairs, stool, forms, 1 bamboo bookcase, 1 stove, coal-pan and irons, 2 lamps complete, 5 curtains and rods, 1 stick stand, hat pegs, iron doormat, a wooden box on floor, 3 door keys, a cupboard key, a coal-house key, 1 scraper, spouting, various brushes, games. The piano became useless through the varying degrees of temperature and was sold during the War and the funds banked.

The church, being an ancient church, has no pew rents. It is free and open to all. Certain seats are 'appropriated' by custom.

The Customary Fees

	Rector	Sexton	Clerk
Banns published	£1		
Certificate of Banns	£1		
Marriage	£5	3s-6d	
Marriage lines free at time of marriage			
Churching		8d	

Burial	£3	8s	2s-0d
Hand Bier			6d

Opening Ground

Large Houses	£2-2s	
Small Houses	10s	
Memorial stone	£5	1s-0d
Stone curb	£1-1s-0d	1s-0d
Certificates	£3-7s-0d	

Chapter X11

(The Quakers)

(The Quakers are people who belong to a Protestant Christian set of denominations formerly known as Religious Society of Friends. During the Civil War many dissenting Christian groups emerged, George Fox being one of them. He claimed to have had a vision on Pendle Hill in Lancashire in which he believed 'the Lord let me see in what places he had a great people to be gathered'.
Fox travelled around England preaching and converting. Quakers described themselves as followers of true Christianity, Children of the Light and Friends of the Truth. The peak of converts in 1660 reached 60,000.
The name 'Quaker' originated in 1650, when Fox was brought before Magistrates Gervase Bennet and Nathaniel Barton on a charge of religious blasphemy. Bennet called the movement 'Quakers' because Fox 'bade them tremble at the word of the Lord'. (Isaiah 66.2 or Ezra 9.5) However they were viewed as a blasphemous challenge to social and political order and were persecuted under the Quaker Act of 1662 and the Conventicle Act of 1664. This was relaxed in 1687 and stopped under the Act of Toleration 1689. Prominent Quakers founded institutions such as Barclays, Lloyds, Cadbury's, Rowntree and Fry's. Quakers refuse to swear oaths, oppose slavery, practice teetotalism and refuse to participate in war.)

The Quakers in Welbourn

1692-1936-
"And when religious sects ran mad,
He held, in spite of all his learning,

That if a man's belief is bad,
T'will not be improved by burning."

Mackworth Praed The Vicar."

"The Vicar" was a tolerant man, but his date is as late as 1829. The dreadful intolerance and persecution which the "People called Quakers," received, arose in the early days when they dissented from what they considered to be the extravagant customs and ceremonial of the Established Church.

This short account of the Welbourn Quakers, is taken mainly from MS notes by Mr. J.J. Burtt of Welbourn and Mr. Henry Burtt of Brant Broughton. In many instances the old phraseology, as well as the spelling has been adapted.

For well over 240 years the name of Burtt has been known in Welbourn. Since 1692, with the exception of one short period, they have occupied or owned land in the parish.

The Toleration Act of 1689 put an end to the imprisonment of Quakers, for non-attendance at church, but for many years they were liable to be imprisoned for non-payment of tithe.

The Society of Friends, as they have come to be called, emphasized in their form of worship, one great aspect of Christian truth. "In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength." The very things for which they were persecuted were of the nature of passive resistance. They would not take the oath of supremacy and allegiance, believing that to do so would be wrong. They would not pay the tithe.

Mr. Joseph John Burtt of Welbourn, who died in 1915 and was buried in the churchyard, lived to see that this was unjust and always said so. The land being taken with the tithe rent on it.

Mr. William Burtt, a Quaker, who lived at Brant Broughton, moved with his wife and children to Welbourn in 1692-3 to North End, the old house, now called the Nookin. It was a farm of about 200 acres under Sir William Ellis.

The Quaker's Meeting, which had been held at Fulbeck, in the house of Mistress Joan Wray, was that year moved to Mr. William Burtt's house at North End. Until 1827 Meeting was held there every week in what has been until lately Mrs. Abigail Frith's room. This same room was styled "A Quaker Conventicle" in The Return of 1705.
The old house, long and low, was enlarged by the building of the far parlour and the room over it, on the northern end. A handsome short staircase still exists in an upper room. The old house had a spiral staircase. Outside the windows on the west side are still the remains of a beautiful garden, with a straight path that ended in a summerhouse with a sundial. Sweet old - fashioned flowers were tended there by William and Alice and their children.

Mr. Daniel Brittain of Welbourn was one who attended Meeting in 1657 and 1665. Mrs. Ann Frotheringham and her husband and son Joseph, were regular attenders---when the men were not in prison. Doubtless there were many others from the village. Many also attended from the surrounding villages, Fulbeck, Hough, Normanton and from Sleaford.
In the 18th century Meeting was held at Brant Broughton. Willoughby, Honington, Fulbeck, Welbourn, Navenby, Waddington and Lincoln.
One of the Meetings at Fulbeck, on the 3rd of the month called July 1683, was being addressed by John Whitehead, who was exhorting his hearers to charity and liberality towards the poor and the sick. Mr. Justice Thorold of Grantham had intelligence of this Meeting, given him by a beggar woman. He went to Mr. Justice Berisford of Lednam (Leadenham) and they 'attended' the Meeting, unasked. They took the names of most of those present and fined them, some £6 and some £7. The total being £72-13-2.

Mrs. Ann Frotheringham and her son Joseph (where was the father?) were fined £20 for attending Meeting. The warrant was issued to Anthony Turfitt and Robert Westall, officers for the Kirk and Poor of Welbourn (churchwardens 1676-1682) and they took 10 beasts and 38 sheep. They drove them from market to market but could not sell them. The reason being, not the price or condition.
The same thing happened to Thomas Robinson of Brant Broughton. 10 bullocks were taken for his fine, and four fat ones were sold by the Constable to Caff of Caythorpe, who hearing how they were taken, threw up the bargain. Then all 10 bullocks were driven to Grantham, but could not be sold. Driven thence to Sleaford. Parker bought four fat ones, but on hearing how they were taken, he too threw up the bargain. So all 10 were driven to Lincoln. Nobody bought them, so the Constable drove them to Justice Christopher Neville by whose warrant they had been taken. He kept them for about 14 days and then satisfied as to the execution of the law, he had them returned to their owner. Home to Brant Broughton, men and beasts! How many miles?

In 1692, 2 steers were taken from William Burtt of Welbourn by Robert Holland, Constable of the same. Warrant granted by Mr. Justice Berresford to Robert Knight, priest of the said town. The said Holland with the aid of Thomas (John) Headland, Steeplehouse warden, took the 2 steers for tythe and steeplehouse levy.

Mr. William Burtt died in 1703. His will was witnessed by Robert Audley and his daughter, Mercy. He was buried at Waddington.

The Friends, through their peaceful resistance, had gained for themselves indulgence in the Courts, for all their scruples and legal recognition of their customs. So, when Mr. Samuel Burtt

went to Quarter Sessions at New Sleaford, in his capacity as Overseer in 1821, he no doubt sat with his hat on. He gave his 'affirmation,' so the paper is marked, instead of, as was usual, taking the oath.
He was so badly hit by the Great Drought of 1826, that he left Welbourn the following year. He was only 27. It was a devastating drought and much of the stock in the fields died. Little boys were hoisted onto the shoulders of men, so that they could reach the branches of trees and pull off the leaves. They threw them down for the cattle to eat.

This was just at the beginning of Mr. Disbrowe's long term as rector. It was 40 years later that he instituted the Day of Prayer during the great Cattle Plague. Something of this sort must have happened in 1746. Four times in one year the churchwardens "paid for the "Actaparliament for the Bease 1s-0d," and the same in the two following years. Also 'Prayers for the Fast Day' and one Thanksgiving.

John Storer, gentleman, of Nottingham, a licensed preacher of the Society of Friends, died at Welbourn after a few hours illness, in June 1795.

Mr. Thomas Burtt, born 1743, bought Welbourn North End. The old house of that name had been tuned into cottages owned today (1933) by the same family and the newer house by the church is named North End. It was not so long ago a hostelry, where people put up their horses when they came to church. It was called 'The Shoulder of Mutton', perhaps on account of the shape of the house. Mr. J.J. Burtt's father, Mr. Edward Burtt, was born there. He bought it the year the Old Hall was sold. His father lived there and it has since been altered and enlarged.
Mr. Edward Burtt, who died in 1887, aged 66, always refused to pay the tithe. The Parish Constable and his 'clerk', a lad

keenly interested in his job and carrying the piece of chalk, went to collect the fine for non-payment. The latter's account of what used to happen follows:-
"They put him in court about once in every five years. Not too often, it was too much trouble, and when the fine was assessed we used to go. The Constable would put his armlet on and we took a piece of chalk. If Mr. Burtt weren't at home, we went to the barn and marked so many bags o' corn and then fetched a horse and cart and took 'em away. If he was at home we showed him the paper and asked him what we could take. His answer always was, "Thee canst take anything but the Missus!" Sometimes we asked him for the money straight out, to save trouble, and he'd say as he hadn't any, "but there's my old coat hanging behind the door." And sure enough the money was in one of the pockets----he had it ready! If we took anything and the sale of the stuff came to more than the fine, we took it back---the money—and you could leave it, put it on the table. He wouldn't take it from you. I suppose somebody'd get it. (regretfully) That was at North End by the church."

Mrs. Ann Frotheringham was fined for attending Meeting about 1674. Her husband and son had been hailed to prison. The goods sold for more than the value of the fine and the officers returned the 'overplus', but she would not receive it, so they threw it into the house and left.

The only Meeting House and Burial Ground now in use in the neighbourhood are at Brant Broughton. The House, given by Thomas Robinson has the date over the door, 1668. The Burial Ground was the gift of John Shrimshire.
In the early days of the 20th century the Quakers of Welbourn went down there, to Meeting on Sundays and on Thursdays. This is when Dykgat Lane WAS a lane and it is there that many of them are buried. Mr. Henry Burtt, who lived to the

great age of 96, was laid to rest there in November, the eleventh month, 1930.
The present Mrs. J.J. Burtt and her family at North End are the District Representatives of the Bible Society. This has been a tradition in the family since it was first started. (1933)

Mr. J.J. Burtt's notes also contain a reference to an Abbey or an Abbot of Welbourn. Unfortunately the notes were not corrected. The Abbey, he states, is the present Manor House. However the Abbot in question was a surname, and refers to Richard Abbot of Welbourn, whose will was proved in 1537.

(The Burtt family continue to live and farm on the property.)

Chapter X111

Varia:

Remarkable Occurrences
"Mors jenua vitae"
Trades
The parish surplice
Kalendar
Welbourn cum Sapperton
Population
"As you like it"

"Are any remarkable occurrences mentioned or peculiar entries made in your Register? If so be pleased to mention them." Diocesan query 1886.

Out of the earliest Register etc.
Ann Foster starved (died of cold) in the fields.
Bur. Jan. 1621.
April 11, was Michael Wilson, son of Robert Wilson
Bur. Drowned 1610

Three hundred years later the same thing happened:
"Herbert Whydle buried 5 yrs June 1924." Poor little boy, he had only lived here a few weeks and he fell in the Wash Dyke and was drowned.

Katherine, a stranger was baptized March 1579. Poor little stranger.
"Old Besse was buried 9th Aug. 1581."
April 12th was a stranger buried 1643
"Name unknown buried July 1840" On the margin of the register, Mr. Disbrowe has written "N.B. The name of John Mundy was written on a purse found about the person of the

unknown. He stated that he was a rope-maker by trade." Evidently he could just speak when they found him.
"1813 buried George Shepherd, the name of the parish he came from unknown. Age not known. Feb. 23rd."

J. Ridghill.

Roger Dent, Weaver (ye first in Welbourn interred in a blanket) was buried March 30th 1667. Burial in woollen was decreed by a statute of Charles 11, in order to encourage the breeding of sheep and it remained in law for 120 years. The penalty for infringing this law was £5.
In the Registers of St. Nicholas of Myra, Studland, there are many records of burials with affidavits that wool only was used. But there was a breach in 1680 when a certain lady was buried "in linnen." Her family had to pay £5. 50/- of which was given to the poor of the Parish, and 50/- to the 'informer.'

Oct 1st 1610, Thomas Farras of Boston, (coming past to the Town) was buried.
"Margaret at Mr. Williams was buryed 22 Dec. 1573."
"Ann Bell servant to Puckeringe bur. 1589."
Sir John Puckering 1544-1596, Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of England: buried in Westminster Abbey.

"15 Aug. was Jane Gray alias Beckingham bur. 1616."

"Richard Atkinson Soulour for ye King bur. 1644."

"Eleanor Locton a poar made (poor maid) buryed 19 March 1672."

"Ellenor Smith a weake child bap. Aug 1628."

Round about 1594-8 there were a number of stillborn or 'almost' stillborn children. The Latin word Abortivus comes over and over again.
29 Aug was Abortivus Thos. Baker, bur."
26 Feb was Jane baptized and being infantabortivus was bur. same day"
1625 says "a child born dead was buryed."

"A child of William Tinker died unbaptized 1619."
"6 of April was Richard, Root Longe his sonne bap. 1600."
"7 of April was Susanne, Ambrose Ashe his dau. bur. 1600."
"1680. Willyam and Margrit his wiffee."
"Ann Namport Father and Mother unknown bap. Sept 1770."
Edward Storie named his little son 'Robin' in 1609.

"Christened 3 children born at one birth – Mary, Charles and Eleonor. Nov. 1740"
In the transcripts:- "Mem! Nov 18 1740. Three children of William Grey Esq. born at one birth of Eleonor his wife, sister of Mr. Welby of Denton, viz. Mary, Charles and Eleonor, were christened and are all now alive April 6th 1741.
(Signed) J. Peckard. Rector"

"Sarah Clawson bur. April 3rd 1868 aged 10." This entry covers a tragedy. She was burnt to death in a neighbour's house, poor little girl, and how sad for the neighbour and her parents.
Another entry says, "Harriet Hallam bur.19th Oct. aged 10 years" 1875. She was the eldest of a large family who lived in some old cottages that stood where the gates of Welland House now are. Her pinafore caught fire and she rushed out into the street, screaming. An old man, Claricoats, the shoemaker, caught her and wrapped his coat round her, trying to put out the flames, but she was so badly burnt that she died.

Mores Janus Vitae- Death is the gate of Life.
Consecutive entries 1609 in one family. Did they get typhus?

June 24 was Agnes the wife of William West bur.
June 30 was John the son of Chris. West bur.
July 13 Was William West bur.
July 13 was Marie the dau. of Chris. West bur.
July 25 was Anne West bur.

Between April and July Mr. Robert Knight buried 8 labouring men, the child of one of them and a widow.

In 1729 Mr. Peckard buried 30 parishioners as against 8 or 13 in ordinary years. 15 men and 15 women, 4 of them widows. There were 10 in the month of April. The population of Welbourn at this time was between 250 and 300. The baptisms for 1728-9 are 16. Burials for the same period are 43.

<u>April 1729</u>

9th was Ann Saunderson bur.
11th was Wm. Bavin bur.
11th was Wm. Smith bur.
12th was Ann Wilkinson bur.
15th was Widow Bavin bur.
16th was Widow Wilkinson bur.
17th was Mary Wells bur.
22nd was J. Turfit bur.
23rd was Eliz. Palin bur.
26 was Wm. Picker bur.

What was the cause? Anno domini – old age?

Compare.

1795	and	1913
Bur. Aged 9		Bur. Aged 73
.. 7		.. 72
.. 9		.. 73
.. 1		.. 76
.. 3		.. 84
.. 3		.. 81
.. 1		.. 80
.. 20		.. 77
.. 2		.. 49
.. 5		.. 81
.. 20		.. 77
Rev. John Ridghill		.. 65
Not all consecutive		.. 86
Entries		The Rev. J.S. Puckridge
		All consecutive entries

Infant Mortality

"Robert Audley and Baron Audley (twins) sons of Baron Brittain and Avery his wife bap. Nov. 24 1723"
Robert Audley and Baron Audley bur. Dec. 8 1723.

Other babies:-

Bap.Nov. 6 the same was bur. Nov. 11 1625
.. Aug. 1 .. .. Aug. 9
.. Feb. 15 .. .. Feb. 24
.. July. 22 .. .. Aug. 9
.. Feb. 17 .. .. Feb. 28 (twins)
.. March. 26 .. .. .. March 31

After Care

This branch of the Public Health Department has done much to remedy what in the past was a terrible state of things. The sad part about it now, is that in so many cases it is not needed. The falling birthrate shows, when in a country village like Welbourn, with practically the same population for 30 years, in that time the numbers in the Day School had exactly halved. 108 – 54. (written 1933)

Some of the entries in the olden days:-

1682 May 23. Ann the dau. of John and Eliz. his wife was bap.
1682 May 25. Eliz. The wife of John and Ann his dau. bur.

1603 March. Tobias the son of Robert Longe bap.
1603 June. Prudence the wife of Robert Longe bur.

1643 William the sonne of Richard & Ann his wife bap. Jan. 26 and Ann the wife of Richard buryed Jan. 26

Four burials running 1683-4

Elizabeth the wife of Charles
Elizabeth the wife of William
Ann the wife of William
Ann the wife of John

All mothers of young babies. 3 of the babies died.

Trades

In the 12th and 13th centuries it became the custom for men to take the name of their trade, eg. Smith. Webb was a Sussex name and denoted a weaver by trade…web and woof. Mac Nab meant the son of an abbot. Every name has its own story.

Sometimes it denoted character or ability. Always there is some one person who has given the name its significance. Perhaps a knight holding his banner high or a man working long years at his trade in his native village.

The names that follow are all taken from the pages of the earliest Register at Welbourn and they descended in most cases, from father to son. In each case the name and trade or position, are written in the Register.

Atkinson was a soldier - Tommy Atkins son.
Burley the miller had a burly figure.
Capp, the tailor made good caps. His business partner, Hides, made leather jerkins.
John Ward kept watch and ward. He was the piper.
Ann was a maidservant.
Belinda was a waitress.
Singleton was an ostler.
Leake was the mason!
Bell, the shepherd, tied a bell on the wether.
Turnpenny was a widow and very poor.
Treadwell was a "gent" in 1680.
Hosanna and Zebedee were a son and daughter.
Brewster the publican, sold a good brew.
Peacock the woodman knew all the wild birds by name.
Mason Plumpton, a white smith, a man of two trades.
Marianne was a little (French) dressmaker.
Namport (n'importe, French 'of no importance') was a waif. Father and Mother unknown. She was in due time married under the name Ann Namport.
Turfit, a husbandman, tilled the turf.
Benjamin, the watchmaker, knew how to charge!
Alexander Walker, a tinker, was a mighty walker.
Daubeney, the plumer – daubed it on.

Fullalove must have been a very pleasant person. Mr. and Mrs. F, an old couple, passed away within five weeks of each other. They "were lovely and pleasant in their lives and in their death they were not divided."

Willielmus Scissor, the tailor, wielded the scissors. He was the Kings tailor in 1242 and held 5 carucates of land in Welbourn. It paid half a mark (6/8) p.a. to the Castle of Eye.

(Carucate - Latin/English - in that part of Britain called Danelaw, is a unit of land area that could be kept in cultivation by a single plough, with a team of 8 oxen. It equals 8 bovates. It is also called a carucata. It was regarded as an area of 120 acres. The tax levied on each carucate came to be known as carucage. Carucates could be subdivided into eighths known as oxgangs or bovates, based on the area a single ox could till in a year.)

William, the Messenger and John Beck lived in Welbourn in about 1228.
Richard Allwood, in 1779 did the ironwork at the bells and again in 1884 the iron work on the church doors was done by a Mr. Attewell—at the well, where the family lived, perhaps two or three hundred years ago, near the village well. As late as 1864 there were a weaver and a basket maker in Welbourn.
In the 'olden days,' the woolwinder, Hesseldine, and the weaver plied their several trades in the 'town.' There was a draper, a butcher, a paver, a hat maker, a shoemaker, a bonnet maker besides the farmer, the carpenter and the blacksmith.
Dame Elizabeth was the wife of Sir Edward Hussey, Bart. What a busy, self-contained little town.
Within the memory of some, an old man who lived by the Wash Dyke was called Patten Jack. He made wooden pattens or clogs. Trade names are not wholly unknown today.

(The Washdyke had been in use since the 17th century. It was the location for washing sheep prior to sheep shearing. A clean fleece would bring in more money. The Washdyke had a natural spring-fed flow from the Beck, with the water being diverted via a shute to a pool, into which the sheep were thrown from a holding pen. First their underside was washed or 'breasted' and then they were flipped over to clean the back. After school the children would rush to 'help' toss the sheep into the dip. Lincolnshire Longwool sheep were the breed of choice, with perfect raising conditions on limestone heathlands. Sadly these sheep are now a 'rare breed'. In the 1800's there were an estimated 15,000 sheep raised between Boothby and Leadenham. At the beginning of World War 11 the Musson family sold the land and equipment for operating the sheep wash to Stanley Overton. He filled in the Washdyke pit and used the area for a new business of tractor repairs and grass cutting equipment. Houses were later built on the remaining land and the heathland was used for growing crops.)

(In 1878 until 1981 a very important shop opened in Welbourn. The Welbourn Co-operative Stores. Thereafter known locally as THE STORES. It had the reputation of being the first rural co-op in Lincolnshire and possibly the country. In Welbourn it was also seen as a 'Socialist Enterprise' and a threat to 'rural order'. The first meeting took place, outside on The Green, as the then Vicar, Rev Leslie-Melville, denied the fledgling members the use of the School Hall. In later years they met in the Joiners Arms! The Co-op maintained an extensive delivery service of bread, with an in-house bakery, animal feeds, coal, paraffin and all groceries. The Welbourn Branch provided social

housing and bought up lands for development for dairy etc. In 1933 it was recorded that they carried over £2000 worth of stock and had an annual trade of £26,000 a year. Annual dividends 'divvies' were 1/3 in the pound….a good return on ones spending.)

The Parish Surplice

From the Churchwardens Account Book

In 1738 the hood, too, was provided. "3 yds of silk att 3s 6d per yard and making of the hood 11s 6d."

1743. 12 yds of Holland for surplices at 2/6 yd	£1-12-1
For making the surplices	7-6
1791. For necking the surplice and cloth	2-6

1804. To 15 yds of fine Irish cloth for a surplice £3-7-6
1oz thread 1/- making 10-6 11-6
£3-19-0

The cost of washing the "linings" had arisen. 1739 has 2/6 at Easter and 2/6 at Christmas. Twenty years on it is 10/- and one hundred years later the voluminous surplices of that day cost 14/- a year to wash.
A surplice of today does not take 15 yards of linen, nor does even a 'fine Irish' cost more that £2-0-0. (1933!)

Kalendar

8 Aug. 1908. Induction of rector W.H.M. Hancock by Archdeacon.
1909. Christmas day. Epidemic of measles.
2 May 1910. Memorial Service for His Majesty King Edward V11.
June 22. 1910. Thursday. At 11 a.m. Coronation of King George V and Queen Mary.
15 Dec. 1912. "Farewell" sermon W.H.M. Hancock. Eph. 5.16.
26 Feb. 1913. Induction of rector, J.S. Puckridge by Archdeacon Kaye.
26 Feb. 1914. Confirmation Diocesan Bishop. 44 candidates.
5 Aug. 1914. Daily Intercessions in time of war.
29 Nov. 1914. Memorial Service George Walker.
10 Jan. 1915. Memorial Service Robert Pickering.
16 Jan 1915. Evening Service 3 p.m. Lighting restrictions.
16 Jan. 1915. Memorial Service Henry Leslie-Melville.
31 Dec. 1915. Day of Penitence----WAR.
6 Feb. 1916. Sang Te Deum morning and evening after (harmless) bomb dropped in parish.

9 April 1916. Cantata “Olivet to Calvary.”
13 July 1916. Memorial Service Wm. Bailey and Sidney Musson.
31 Dec. 1916. United Service School 6.30. Room full. £3-18-1.
7 Jan. 1917. Memorial Service George Walter Harris.
22 Jan. 1917. Military Funeral Cecil Lamb. L/C.
13 May 1917. Memorial Service Albert Preston and William Heneage.
3 June 1917. Memorial Service James Turner.
9 Sept. 1917. Memorial Service Christopher Walker.
2 June 1918. Evening Service resumed 6 p.m.
23 June 1918. Weekly collections begun.
11 Nov. 1918. 11 a.m. Thanksgiving Armistice.
17 Nov. 1918. Official? Thanksgiving Peace.
29 Dec. 1918. Memorial Service to men who fell in The Great War.
5 March. 1919. First Lantern Service in church. V.G.
9 May 1920. Dedication of Memorial Cross. The Bishop Dr. Swayne and F.M. Sir William Robertson.
19 Dec. 1920. Football Service. Collection for County Hospital.
16 Feb. 1921. Confirmation, Lord Bishop of Grantham Dr. Hine.
20 March. 1921. Cantata “The Crucifixion.”
31 July 1921. Dedication of Memorial Tablet in the church.
27 Nov. 1921. Memorial Service Mrs. Hancock.
9 April 1922. Cantata “The Way of the Cross.”
23 July 1922. Memorial Service Mrs. Leslie-Melville.
25 March 1923. Cantata “The Crucifixion.”
13 April 1924. Cantata “The Way of the Cross.”
16 May 1924. Consecration of new churchyard. The Lord Bishop.
29 Nov. 1925. Memorial Service Queen Alexandra.
28 March 1926. Cantata “The Crucifixion.”

21 Nov. 1926. Memorial Service W.H.M. Hancock. Rector 08-12.
16 July 1927. Organ Recital Godfrey Luard Esq. M.A.
16 Dec. 1926. Memorial Service Ruthven Leslie-Melville.
17 Dec. 1926. Intercession for His Majesty King George V.
19 Deb. 1929. Confirmation, Diocesan Bishop Dr. Swayne.13 April 1930. Dedication of Oak Reredos and Paneling.

Welbourn cum Sapperton

The south end of the village has the old name of Sapperton attached to it.
In 1267 a grant was made to Roger de Sapreton and his heirs of free warren-hunting, where he lived at Sapreton, co, Lincoln.
1377. Thomas de Sapperton (see John de Welbourn) he probably lived here and looked after the Treasurer's interests.
1464-1579. Sapperton associated with the lands of the Manor of Welbourn.
1500. Extinct Villages: "Boothby Wapentake, Sapperton is said to be a hamlet in the parish of Welbourn by the road from Lincoln to Grantham." This is the most important reference, as being in Boothby Wapentake it proves it to have been close to Welbourn, north of Leadenham.
1650-1844. The mansion of Sapperton did belong to the Welby family.
1750-1913. Various deeds bear the title. Welbourn cum Sapperton.

Population of Welbourn

A.D.
1086 pop. ?
1526 .. 148

1660 .. 217
1676 .. 235
1729 .. 250-300
In 1786 the churchwardens paid “to James Sharp for numbering the inhabitants 6d.”

1801	..	360				
1811	..	383				
1821	..	489				
1831	census	494				
1841	..	512				
1851	..	592				
1861	..	664				
1871	..	677	Houses inhabited	139	uninhabited	12
1881	..	550	..	132	..	14
1891	..	546				
1901	..	504				
1911	..	556				
1921	..	524	..	144	..	nil
1931	..	447	..	144	..	nil

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As you like it.

Francis Walesby, a butcher of the ‘town’ of Welbourn. Going to market ever and anon to “ye city of Lincolne,” saw but one maid’s face in the crowded booths, to wit, one, “Martha Browne of ye Parish of St. Peter in ye Arches,” and one day with “a license from the Ordinary” in his pocket, he lifted her to the saddle behind him and rode home, perhaps straight to the old church door and they were married as it says, by the parson, Mr. Robert Knight, on an August day in the 4th year of His Majesty’s reign 1698.

On the contrary, “William Rudd of Biggleswade in ye county of Bedford, Gent” did the usual thing. When the courtship ended and the Great Day arrived, he packed his portmanteau and travelled many a league over coach roads and country lanes, to claim his bride in the person of “Mrs. Mercy Audley of this Parish, Spinster.” In July 1703.

In the olden days the font of the church seems to have been in constant use, every week almost. One October day (Were the Harvest Offerings in the church?) there must have been a large gathering around the font. It stood then at the West end, where there were not any seats until 1884. There was the parson and the clerk, of course, and Fred, Robert and Ada from the city, and Enoch and Isaac of Welbourn. Annie and John and Mary and May and two other children, eleven of them all baptized. So if all was in order and they had the Canonical number of sponsors, it would be a case of ‘now sort yourselves out’, as the parson said, when he married four couples ‘by the book’ and knew none of them.
Poor little Enoch and Isaac in a crowd of 41 people and going out into life with only one name each. Why not give them a Royal name as well as a Scriptural one? Plain John or James or Henry?

“Abram Ullgott de Wadington and Eliz Prector de Navenby married,” reads as if the rector thought in French. It also reads as if someone had taken French-leave of their own church and parish and found sanctuary here. Compare April 1602 when Mr. Simone Reade, the curate, wrote “Alice Smith filia Pauli Smith” (daughter) in the middle of a page of English.

The miller was a very important personage when each smallholding supplied its own needs. There were two ‘post mills’ in the south of the village, mentioned in the account of the manor in 1286 and 1334. Today only the mounds in the

two Mill Hill fields remain. There was a water mill in the northern half of the village, probably in the Wash Dyke pool. When the extent of the Manor was given, the water mill is mentioned, but not a sheep dip. That came later. A large wheel with its buckets for catching the water that turned it, might have had two pairs of millstones. It was worth 4/- per annum to the Lord of the Manor. Parts of a broken millstone can be seen near the water today. One of the windmills was worth 13/4 per annum. A considerable sum in those days!

The Mill Hill, the road to the heath, takes its name from the wind and steam flourmill on its summit. It was built by Henry Minnitt, who farmed 64 acres of Glebe up there, in 1853. The mill was judged unsafe and a danger to aircraft, during the earlier years of the Great War. It was demolished, leaving only the base of the shaft, the house and the name of which remain to this day.

The Miller (story below) belongs to one of the earlier mills, about which not much is known. The Register of 1600 supplies a short, rather sad story, but with a happier ending:-

Thomas the sonne of Thos Burley, Miller. Bur. March 1653
Thos Burley the elder, Miller, bur. Oct 1654
John Burley & Eliz. Leavesley were married at Roxham before J.P. in July 1656
John Burley, Miller, bur. April 1657
John the son of John Burley, Lette, deceased & Eliz. his wife (widow) borne August 16th 1657
Eliz Burley & Will Clark maryed 9 June 1659

An eventful 6 years, but no death duties.

The last entries in the Register of 1702 by Mr. Robert Knight, rector are in a clear, one almost might say, triumphant hand.

Robert Audley Esquire bur.
Robert Riley Gentleman bur.

Did he see in their passing a hope of release for himself, forced as he was, to stand aside for nearly two years, until on 3rd Sept. 1704 the hand of his successor, the young rector of 30, laid him to rest in the church which he had loved and served. And where exactly 10 years later his son was inducted as rector.

Chapter X1V

Great Men

1345. John de Welborn
1625. Robert Audley
1818. Vere Henry Hobart
1814. Henry Handley Brown
A.D. 675. St Chad
1718. Peter Peckard. D.D.
1860. Sir William Robertson, Bart.

"Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints in the sands of time."

Tennyson

John de Welborn, 1345-1381

Foremost among the "Great Men" must be put this name, which comes down from the days when men were named after some notable deed, or because they held landed property.
John de Welborn was a priest, and therefore in those days, unmarried. He held land in Welbourn and in other places, some of which he gave to provide stipends for the two chantries he founded, at Welbourn and at Lincoln, 28 Oct. 1363.
His early life was spent in the service of Henry, Earl of Derby, afterwards Earl and Duke of Lancaster and so, in duty bound he included his name in the "ora pro nobis" brethren pray for us - of his chantry mass.
He was exhibited in the person of his proctor, Thomas de Saperton, clerk. He was Treasury of Lincoln, a dignity, 30

marks. Also prebendary of Asgarby in Lincoln , without cure, 30 marks. Of Bedwin in Salisbury, without cure, 75 marks. And of Husthwaite in York, 40 marks. He lived in the reigns of Edward 111 and Richard 11.

It was at the Earl of Lancaster's petition that he had provision, 9th June 1343, of an expectation at York. He was instituted to the prebendal stall of Raunds in Northants, on 23 June 1346, to which he was presented by John Gynewell, acting as attorney general for the Earl. When John Gynewell, in 1347, was promoted to the See of Lincoln, Welbourn, at the Earl's request, had provision of his prebend of Bedwin in Salisbury on 21st April. In 1349 he accepted the vacant Treasurership of Lincoln and on the 19th August of that year, his acceptance was confirmed by the Pope. The confirmation was accompanied by dispensations to hold Raunds with the Treasurership and to be a non-resident while in the Earl's service.

He seems to have resigned Raunds, because the church was appropriated in 1354, to the college of the Newarke, Leicester, but he kept the Treasurership and his personal stalls in Lincoln, York and Salisbury, until his death in 1381. His place of burial is not known. Perhaps like many another, the body was despoiled for the sake of the jewels and precious ornaments buried with it.

It seems passing strange that no record of the tomb of Lincoln's most munificent Treasurer can be found, but so it is. His will is also missing. It was proved at York before the Chapter, (the Deanery being vacant) between the 3rd and 26th of May 1381. The executor nominated was Mr. John de Welburn, and letters of administration were granted to two vicars choral of York Minster, Thomas de Anstan and John de

Lethum. The testator is described as Canon of York, prebendary of Husthwait, York and Treasurer of Lincoln.

The Treasurer of Lincoln was the 4th 'ruler in the Kingdom'. In the cathedrals of Salisbury, York and Lincoln, there obtained the foursquare order of stalls. The Dean and the Chanter or Precentor, opposite each other, as they are today, and the Chancellor and the Treasurer. These were the four chief dignities. This order of stalls came originally from Bayeux in Normandy. It is interesting to note that, the Manor of Welbourn was held by successive members of the house of Bayeux, in 1200.

It was the duty of the Treasurer to supply the wax tapers for the processions in Christmas week, and candles for the altars, rood-beams, tombs etc, on the principal feasts. A century later J. Symondesbury, the Salisbury Treasurer in 1452, lodged a complaint against the expenses involved by the introduction of so many "nova festa."
The Treasurer has the appointment of the Lay Sacrist, the two candle-lighters and the sweeper. Also four servants of the church were in his employ. The glazier, 3 carpenters and the vergers were all to do repairs, change tapers, spread cloths, carry water etc. But Treasurer Welborn would employ some hundreds of men other than these, in the great work, which has made his name famous.
In 1283 an ordinance had been passed at Lincoln, "relating to the clashing duties of the Treasurer and the Master of the Fabric." The two offices were combined and so John de Welbourn is described as "Treasurer and Master of the Fabric."
1380. John de Welborne was Treasurer. He built the tabernacle of the High Altar, the N. and E. parts as now standing. (1788, the S. was rebuilt after to make the N. and S. sides uniform.) He was Master of the Fabric and the principal promoter of

making the two stone arches under the W. windows and the vault of the high tower. He caused the statues of the Kings over the West Great door to be placed there. Compare the stone carving of the canopies over these Kings, with the oak carving of the choir stalls and think what the carving on the tomb may have been like, waiting for the body and its effigy.

“Lincoln received a Treasurer who has left abiding traces in the Minster. John de Welborne restored the precious shrine of St. Hugh. Perhaps the greatest of his benefactions are the present magnificent choir stalls, the finest in the Kingdom.”

The 62 stalls, with the carved bench ends, the tracery of the canopies and the carvings on the misère, are beautiful. The five stalls next the pulpit are late 18th century. They were made to match the opposite side when the organ was removed to the screen. The figures at the top of the stall are modern. In 1893 it was said that of the 70 odd statuettes for the tabernacles of the choir stalls, all but four had been given. The two eastern ones were carved by Miss Ella Curtois of Branston, in about 1902. They represent King Charles 1 and Queen Victoria. Another figure was carved by her, for the Welton Beckhallstall, further west on the same side. It represents St. Augustine of Hippo. It is one of the best statues. She, being on the spot could place the plaster cast in position. The normal sized head, looking too small at that height, she made it larger and it now looks well proportioned.

The Shrine of St. Hugh’s Head in Lincoln Minster.

“At the translation of the body of St. Hugh in 1280, his head was placed in a coffer of gold and precious stones beside the altar of St. John the Baptist, not far from the shrine of his body. After its theft and restoration in the reign of Edward 111, John de Welbourn, Treasurer of the Cathedral, provided a

second shrine, of which the pedestal remains. The shrine was despoiled of its treasures in the general spoliation of 1540." The upper part of the shrine was destroyed in the Civil War.
The "theft" occurred A.D. 1346. Certain thieves plundered various churches, amongst the rest, the Cathedral Church of Lincoln and shrine of St. Hugh. After stripping his head of its ornaments, they threw it into a pit, where it was guarded by a crow, until the thieves brought it back again. On going to London to sell their booty, they were robbed on their return home and betraying themselves were taken and hanged at Lincoln.

Bequests were sometimes made in wills of 111jd (4d) or so "to St. Hugh's Head," by men, not only in Lincoln, but in the deanery, who left also, so much to the High Altar of their own church, and 111jd or so "to our Lady warke (the work of the Cathedral Church of St. Mary) of Lincoln."

The will of Richard de Whitewell, canon of Lincoln 1359, gave "to John de Welborn, the Treasurer my little breviary of the use of Lincoln…..and if my executors hold contrary opinion…..in anything, then the advice of my lord John de Welborn, the Treasurer, shall be obtained." A very personal bequest to his friend. No doubt it was beautifully embossed and engraved and hallowed by association.

The "Use of Lincoln," as it would be said today, the order of service. Sarum (Salisbury), York, Lincoln and Bangor Cathedrals all had their own "use." But of the two latter, nothing has been found in print. Bishop Wordsworth wrote that perhaps not many books were printed for these single Dioceses. People used another book and made the best of it. Some publishers were equal to the occasion. They gave the rule for the Feast of the Translation of St. Hugh in October, (? Nov. 16-17th) "where it is celebrated. But in the Diocese of

Lincoln, Vespers will be of St. Hugh, because it is a double feast, and merely a commemoration of the octave of St. Martin, of the Sunday and of the Trinity. Not in an audible voice and no procession."
These rules were inserted in the Almanac, which was incorporated in most printed Sarum Breviaries. The office of St. Chad of Litchfield, was printed in some books of Sarum Use.
"Known relics of Lincoln Use are few, but they include forms and ceremonies from the Liber Niger and services such as the Festival of St. Hugh

John de Welborne must have been a wealthy man. Besides all the building at Lincoln and at Welbourn, he left more land for the upkeep of his chantries.

"License for the executors of John de Welburn, late Treasurer of the church of St. Mary Lincoln, to alienate in mortmain a messuage, fifty acres of land and ten of meadow in Welburn and Wellingore, co. Lincoln and Harby, co. Notts, to the Dean and Chapter of Lincoln for finding two chaplains to celebrate divine serviced daily, one in the church of Lincoln and one in the church of Welburn, for the soul of the late King (and others) in full satisfaction of a license granted to the said John and his executors by the late King for the alienation of lands in Lincoln and Welburn only, of the yearly value of 20 marks, notwithstanding the limitations thereof as aforesaid." 30 June, Westminster.

In 1918 the Dean and Chapter of Lincoln applied to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for consent to sell this land by auction 22 June 1918. That at Welbourn made upwards of £80 per acre, being some of the best grazing land in the parish.

The Treasurer also gave beautiful offerings to the High Altar which he had built. The following is from the Inventories of Plate, Vestments etc. belonging to Lincoln Cathedral. By Charles Wordsworth (p. 27)
"Imprimis. A chesable of white cloth brodered with Images and Angells of gould haveing ye Trinitye in ye back ye Holy Ghost being of Pearl and alsoe divers Pearles in ye other Images with two tunacles of ye same suit without Pearls and three Albes and three annisses, with their apparrell, ye stoles differing, of ye gift of one John de Welborn.

Item. A cope of white of ye same suite with Pearles and stones in the Orfreys behind and before many little stones wanting of ye gift of the said John de Welborn."

Page 31. "Item: A chesable of blew velvet with an orfrey of Images and tabernacles and dyverse byrdse in the orfrey with ij tunacles having iij bendes behynde and before with iij albes with ther apparel, ex dono (the gift of) Johannis Welborn Treasurer."

The other copes were "gold brodered, divers Images, of which one is Herod, slaying ye children of Israel. (The slaughter of the Innocents.) Ye other brodered with ye storye of St. John Baptist (his own chantry chapel) ex dono Johanis Welborn Treasurer."

The carving on the miserere of his prebendal stall of Asgarby in Lincoln, seems to represent Our Lord enthroned, with Moses and Elijah on either side. The former holding what maybe the Tables of the Law. It is the 7th stall from the Bishop's throne. The psalms are for the 3rd day morning prayer. As he repeated that beautiful "Lord, who shall dwell in Thy tabernacle, or who shall rest upon Thy Holy Hill?" he

must have rejoiced and given thanks for the work that he had been able to do, in the beautifying of that Temple of God.

In the Cathedral, behind the High Altar, in the great transept, "more to the north door." Was the tomb of his proctor, Thomas de Saperton. Gervase Hollis saw it with the portraiture, in brass, of a man armed with the rhyming epitaph in Norman French. It is the only one in that language recorded in the Cathedral, (Canon Cole).
Translation: "**Thomas de Saperton Lies here. God grant him his mercy. Lately servant Esquire to Sir John de Welborne Treasurer. He made his departure from the world the first day of the month of June, the year of Christ, if you please 1377. Say in your charity, Pater noster et Ave."** Our Father etc.
The original is quaint. ***Thomas de Saperton gist yey Dieu luy grant as mercy. Jayds servant Esquire a Sire Johan de Welborne Treasurer Que dei monds fiches son reparter Del moyes de June le jour primer L'an de Christ, si vous plest, Mille tre-cent septante et sept. Dits par sa charity Pater noster et Ave.***

There is a gravestone to a John Welborne aged 33, a former Sacristan 1793, in the centre of the floor of the Sacristy in the Cathedral. A present day verger (1933) is a Mr. George Welborne.

Walter de Welburn is mentioned on an Inquisition Post Mortem of 1245.

William de Welborne, rector of Manton 1366, was archdeacon of Huntingdon in 1386, prebendary of Empingham Lincoln 1394, and was buried in Lincoln Cathedral.

John de Welborne was prebendary of Hurstborne and Burbage, Sarum, circa 1370, precentor of Salisbury 1394 and canon of York.
There are 26 charters of lands granted to Thomas, son of Geoffrey de Welburne. (end of 13th and beginning of 14th centuries) 49 charters of land granted to John, son of Thomas de Welborne, the brother and executor and probably legatee of the Treasurer. 16 charters were granted to his son Adam and 26 to his son Geoffrey. This land held by Geoffrey in Welbourn was North and East fields of Welburne. Meadows appertaining thereto. West field between Dykgat and Northbek. West field between Westengate and Dykgat in Westaft and le Brothes.
South field between Westengate and Leadenham Mere. On the South Hethe. On the Cliffes. On the North Hethe.

The chantry lands, which were sold in 1918 were west of Dykgat Lane and towards Leadenham.

Robert Audley 1625-1702

A flat tomb on the floor of Welbourn church under the S.E. window bears the name of Robert Audley. He was buried "in the chantry choir," as men of his day, "sick of body but whole of mind" when they made their wills, desired to be. The inscription, partly illegible now reads:-
Here Lieth the Body of Robert Audley Esq. who departed this life Feb. the 19th 1702 in the 79 year of his age."
He was baptized at Northill in Bedfordshire in 1625. "Elder son of the Rev. Robert Audley of Welbourn, Lincs and Northill and Biggleswade, Bedford, Esq." He was of Trinity

College, Cambridge, admitted at the Inner Temple 1646, Barrister at Law 1663.
He was an officer in the Royalist Forces 1641 and through the whole of the War. The following is from the Calendar of Compounding 1643-1660.

"Re Welbourn 1645 22nd Oct.
Robert Audley, ward of the King….note that he took the oath and his case was referred to the County Committee.
22 Oct 1645.
Begs to compound on favourable terms being but 17 years old when he went into the King's quarters, where he was only 18 months. In Dec. 1644 he appeared before the committee of Examinations, and took the National Covenant. His lands at Spalding and Welbourn co. Lincoln, worth respectively £60 and £70 a year, from which his uncle, Thomas Audley has £50, have been sequestered. He has had no returns for the last four years from his estates at Welbourn, which is four or five miles from Newark, in the King's quarters. (Welbourn today is 9 or 10 miles from Newark.) Has been heavily fined for his wardship and paid £20 a year for his land to the King.

23. Dec
Fine £217-8-8

31.Jan. 1646.
Order in Parliament that his fine be £200 for land worth £133-7-4. Charged with an annuity of £50, and he as a minor with £20 a year (to pay) to the Court of Wards.
21 March
He, being ordered to pay £50 now, and £150 when Newark is reduced. Offers to pay £150 now, if the £50 may be delayed proportionably longer."

His estate was decimated by Cromwell in 1655.

He was deputy Recorder of Bedford until 1683, when he was accused of enmity to the Government and Church of England and displaced.
His office brought him into contact with John Bunyan,

A Tinker out of Bedford,
A vagrant oft in quod,
A Private under Fairfax,
A Minister of God.

And he is immortalized as the Recorder of the Town of Mansoul, whose name is Conscience in Bunyan's 'Holy War' of 1641. A good name with which to be identified.

Robert Audley married Edith, daughter and co-heir of Sir William Fish of Biggleswade, Beds, and of Grays Inn, Knight, and Elizabeth, his wife. Mercy, their daughter, married William Rudd of Biggleswade, gentleman, in 1704, who died June 1720, aged 74. Buried at Welbourn in the chantry choir. A present day firm in Biggleswade bears his name. Mercy died as is recorded on her father's tombstone:-
"**Here lies the Body of Mercy Rudd Daughter of Robert Audley Esq. who departed This Life Decem. The 18th 1729 in the 63rd year of her age."**

"Will Rudd" was one of the trustees of the Sparrow Charity and his signature is on the terrier of church property of 1708.

The Audley Pedigrees are being constructed by Aleyn Lyell Reade Esq. and can be seen in the Reference Room at the Free Library Lincoln. (NB. 1933) The earliest name here is Thomas Audeley of Welburne 1543. Mr. Aleyn Reade says "Audley of Welbourn, and Grantham, Lincs. Upwell, Norfolk. And

Biggleswade, Beds. Landowners and Traders. Pedigree begins definitely with Thomas Audley (d. 1562) of Hough, Lincs. Who according to the visitation pedigrees, was the son of William Audley of Welbourne, a descendant of Lord Audley. Last male representative traced, Thomas Audley died at Bath 1822.

Anthony Audley of Welbourn settled Letton Farm in Welbourn on a Robert Audley and his wife Jane, 2 Sept. 1586. In 1543 and 1545 a Robert Letten (Lettyn) was tenant of a messuage and lands in Welbourn, lately in the ownership of The Order of St. John of Jerusalem and the Preceptory of Temple Brewer. Evidently the man gave the farm its name…at least for that generation. A William Lettyn was churchwarden in 1577 and 1587.

Anthony Audley of Welbourn, co, Linc, gent. Will dated 5 Oct. 4 or 1 Jas. (1607) *(ie. James 1 England or James 1V Scotland.)*
"To be buried in the chantry choir of the church of Welbourn. To Robert (Rev.) Audley and William Audley, my younger grandchildren, on marriage of their eldest brother, portions equally. To Thomas Audley, my eldest grandchild, tenement in Welbourn, commonly called Chantry House, and lease lately renewed called Bowles lease, and late in pawn to William Willsbie of Spalding, and whereas in a former will I had given unto him 100 ewes, I now give him instead £30 for his livery at 21. To brother Walter £3-6-8 for a ring. To Robert (Rev) and William Audley, £12 each for a half year's allowance to help them to some honest course in the world…until they procure of their brother's marriage money. To be distrained for out of the lands in Welborne." Signed Anthony Audley.
Witness John Stoneham, Clerk. Lewis Clarke and Timothy Webster. Proved 13 Nov. 1607 at Lincoln.

Chantry House. Where was it? It was the residence of the chantry priest and it would have been vacated by them at the Suppression of the chantries in 1547. But still in 1607 it was "commonly called" by its old name. It would be somewhere adjacent to the church. Perhaps it was the stone building, now a barn, in the north of the churchyard. It has a square headed doorway facing the church, double walls filled with rubble and seems to be built of the same material as much of the church. The ground has risen, though it was probably always below the level of the churchyard.

In the time of Thomas Kychyn, 1556-7, Chantry House was part of the property owned by the Duke of Norfolk in Welbourn, and the priest paid 5d. per annum rent for it. The Manor of Welborne, le Northalle and le Southalle in 1334, was held 200 years later by successive Dukes of Norfolk.

Robert Audley of Welbourn, clerk, father of Robert Audley, Esq, was baptized at Welbourn Feb. 1590-1. Deacon and Priest 1620. He was not rector of Welbourn but he went from Welbourn to Caythorpe, Lincs, and lies buried there. His will, dated 1628, gives to his daughter Jane, six silver spoons etc. the virginals and the frame, which they stand upon. £200 at age of 8 for her education and maintenance. To eldest son Robert Audley (Esq) those 2 silver spoons his grandmother, Mrs.Fish gave him and the two silver spoons and one silver bowl etc.etc. To youngest son William Audley one silver bowl and £300 at age 10 for his education and maintenance. Also all my books and notes.
Ececutrix, wife Mary. But she and the infant, William, died 2 months later.
" 1628 Nov. 17 burd. Mr. Robert Audley, Clarke, the son of Mr. Robert Awdley…gentleman.
1628-9 Jan. 18 burd. Mris. Mary Awdley the second wif of aforesaid Mr. Robert Awdley, Clarke.

1628-9 Jan. 21 burd. Wm Awdley the sonne of the last sayd Mr. Robert Awdley."
So poor little Jane and Robert were bereft of father, mother and baby brother before she was 8 years old and he was only 3. That is why he was a ward of the King in 1643. His inheritance, being entailed would not be mentioned in this will.

Chancery Proceedings. Constable v. Audley June 1673.

Complaint by Ralf Constable of Biggleswade, gent, and Ann his wife, co-heirs sisters Barnardiston, Jane, Elizabeth, Margaret, Mercy, Martha and Edith, about the year 1660 after Ann was 21, one Robert Audley (Esq.) of Biggleswade, who had married sister Edith, persuaded her to make over her share to him, said Audley.

Answer 1674 of Robert Audley (Esq.) that after his marriage with Edith, her sister Ann, complainant, was received by them as a border in their house for 9 or 10 years and by 1660 was indebted to him £77, and as she could not conveniently pay the same, she mortgaged said land to him-freehold and copyhold messuages and lands in Biggleswade and elsewhere in co. Beds.

Margaret Audley, living 1562-88, married first Christopher Webster of Welbourn, who was buried 1588, and secondly Richard Worthington of Branston, Lincs. son of William Worthington, husbandman, whose memorial was in the old East window of Welbourn church 1550.

"Elizabeth Audley of Welbourn co. Lincoln, gent." Gave £10 to this daughter Margaret, £10 to her son-in-law, Christopher Webster and a silver goblet to Thomas Audley etc. 1565.

In 1566 one member of this family "which had settled at Welbourn" a certain John Audlie of Osbornbie, took sides with the despoilers of the churches. A note says, "The images of the Roode Marie and John, and all other images of papistrie, John Audlie of the same town did bie and did deface them. Itm. The Roode Loft was sold by the churchwardens unto said John Audleye, who made a bedde of itm."

An Elizabeith Audley married Baron Brittain of Sandy, Beds, gent, a nephew of Mercy Rudd, and had issue:-
(Rev.) Robert Audley Brittain bap. 1691.
Baron Brittain bap. at Sandy 1694 and bur. same.
Edith Brittain bap. at Sandy 1699 and bur. same.
Wm Sparrow Brittain bap. at Sandy 1699 and bur. same.

Mr. Baron Brittain and Avery, his 2nd wife had:-
Robert Audley Brittain and Baron Audley Brittain, twins, bap. at Welbourn 1723 and bur. same.
John Robert Audley Brittain bap. 1725 and bur. same.
Audley Brittain bap. 1727 and bur. same..
Elizabeth Brittain bap. 1726 and bur. same.

How tragic. It is fortunate that the eldest lived to be a man. Mrs. Avery Brittain the wife of Mr. Baron Brittain was buried 2 Jan. 1740 in the Chantry Choir of Welbourn. Lord Monson's notes say "1st Jan 1739, aged 53 years." The stone is there today, half buried in the S.E. wall.

Helene Audley buried Oct. 1579, and Thomas Awdley buried Dec. 1567 are the earliest dates in the Welbourn Registers.

Vere Henry Hobart, Lord Hobart 1818-1875

He was born at Welbourn 8th Dec. 1818, eldest son of the rector, the Rev. and Hon. Augustus Edward Hobart and Mary Williams, his wife.

In 1836 he was elected to an open scholarship at Trinity College, Oxford. B.A. 1840. He was appointed the same year to a clerkship in the Board of Trade. In 1842 he accompanied Sir H. Ellis as secretary on a diplomatic mission to the Emperor of Brazil.

In 1849 on his father's accession to the Earldom he succeeded to the title of Lord Hobart. He opposed the continuance of the Crimean War and advocated Peace in a striking letter to the Times.

He became director-general of the Ottoman Bank and in 1872 was appointed Governor of Madras. In spite of a shy manner and scholarly tastes, he secured the esteem of both the natives and the English residents. He was anxious to improve the social status of the natives and interested himself in the promotion of education. Lord Hobart urged the building of a New Harbour and an improved drainage system.

He married in 1853, Mary Catherine, daughter of the late Bishop Carr of Bombay *(and Catherine Emily MacMahon)*

He died at Madras on 27th April 1875. *(of typhoid fever.)*

Henry Handley Brown

Another of Welbourn's sons can find a place among the Great Men. It is Rev. Henry Handley Brown.

One Sunday morning a young cadet from R.A.F. Cranwell, called on the then rector and asked permission to take photographs. His home place in New Zealand was called Welbourn and his father would be interested to see photos of the original place.
His father, A.E. Washer Esq. J.P. and Chairman of the Parish Council of Welbourn, N.Z. answered the rector's letter, which he wrote after seeing Mr. Washer, Junior in Feb. 1930. It was addressed from "Avenue Road, Welbourn, New Plymouth."

The district of Welbourn, N.Z. as it is named today, was the scene of the Rev. Handley Brown's work. The new church is called Welbourn in memory of his services in and around New Plymouth, as it was in the early days. Mr. Washer enclosed a print of the church, which Mr. Brown built and one of the homes he resided in, in Omata. "It was one of the country homes which escaped destruction in the War. (1860) The reason for its safety being the affectionate regard in which the Rev. Brown was held by the Maoris."

Mr. Washer wrote :- "There is no doubt he did a wonderful work in the early days, when settlers were very scarce indeed. He devoted most of his time to visiting them all, no matter what denomination they were, within a radius of 20 miles. He became a noted character, much beloved by all with whom he came in contact.

His father, Major Francis Brown, lived at the Manor, Welbourn, Lincs, which was at sometime called Welbourn House. He was very fond of hunting and kept several horses. He retired from the N. Lincs. Militia and undertook the management of Mr. Green's several farms at Welbourn. His

wife, Mary, was the only daughter of Mr. Green, who lived in the large house now owned by the Misses Nead. It is said that Mr. Green built it and he died in 1810 aged 78.

In 1803 Francis Brown, Major, raised a company of volunteers in the village. It was part of the army of 400,000 volunteers, which sprang up everywhere to meet the threat of the invasion of England by Napoleon.
Napoleon had had a medal struck, with the following words on it." Landing in England 1804." !!! But, Nelson was there!
The list has 83 names on it. It is called the Muster Roll of the Loyal Welbourn Volunteers. It can be seen in the 'Lincoln, Rutland and Stamford Mercury' 13th Nov. 1803. The population was only 360 so almost every family must have sent a man. Picker, Hall, Minnitt, Bailey, Allen, Cooling, White, Atkin are some of the names. Ward, Palin, Wilkinson, Holmes are all under 21. John Alman was only 14, so he must have been a big lad for his age.

Mrs. Mary Brown died in 1807 aged 27 and in 1813 Major Brown married again at Sleaford. He wed Frances Conington Handley, by whom he had a large family. She died in 1860 aged 73.
Henry Handley was the eldest, baptized at Welbourn March 1814. He went to Corpus Christi College, Oxford where he took his B. A. and M.A. degrees and was ordained in 1837. He was appointed curate of Burton Pedwardine, Lincs. He was ordained priest by the Bishop of Lincoln and became vicar of the same parish. In 1840 he was appointed rector of Howell, Nr Sleaford and he held both cures until 1858 when he resigned. He emigrated with his large family to New Zealand.
(In 1841 he had married Sophia Wilhelmina Morris and she had 8 children. They boarded the Barque, Eclipse, which arrived at New Plymouth on 4th March 1859. Their children

were named Sophia, Francis -Frank, killed 1860- Mary, Frances, Caroline, John, Thomas, and William.)

On arrival at New Plymouth he was appointed to the charge of the Omata district, which included all the back country in which it was safe for white people to settle. After the cessation of hostilities (the Maori Wars) he bought a large property to which they removed, naming it 'Welbourn', after his birthplace. *(He retired in 1892.)* He died in 1893 and is buried in St. Mary's churchyard, by the side of his wife and his son Frank, who was killed at the battle of Mahoe Tahi. A letter from Mrs. Brown is headed, 'Burton' (Burton Pedwardine, Lincs) Vogeltown, New Plymouth.

The Brown family lived in various parts of Lincs, ever since the 17th century and owned much property. A Mr. George Brown was churchwarden at Welbourn Lincs, most the time between 1750 and 1783. He died in 1791.
A Mr. Francis Brown was buried at Welbourn 1800 aged 73.
Major Francis Brown died 1850 aged 73. His son, Francis, baptized 1807, *(son of first wife, Mary, who died in childbirth,)* joined the Regular Army and was a Captain in 1836 when his son was baptized. A marginal entry in the Welbourn Register of that date reads:-"Ap. 27. 1836 Francis Edward, son of Francis and Charlotte Augusta Brown, Bootham, Captain of 5th Dragoon Guards. Baptised in St. Olaves, Mary Gate, County York." There are tablets in Welbourn Church and a large square tomb outside, which record these and many other dates.

Mr. Thomas Brown and Mr. William Green were churchwardens of an older generation and a Mr. Thomas Handley churchwarden 1717.

St. Chad. Patron Saint. 634-672

(Irish archbishop and brother of St. Cedd. Also called Ceadda. He was trained by St. Aiden in Lindisfarne and in England. He also spent time with St. Egbert in Ireland. He was made archbishop of York by King Oswy.
Chad was disciplined by Theodore, the newly arrived archbishop of Canterbury in 669. Chad accepted Theodore's charges of IMPROPRIETY with such humility and grace that Theodore regularized his consecration and appointed him Bishop of Mercia. He established a see at Litchfield. His relics are enshrined in Birmingham. In liturgical art he is depicted as a bishop holding a church.)

In 1272 a grant was made to Elias de Rabeyn, the Lord of the Manor of Welborn, and his heirs of a yearly fair to be held on the vigil and Feast of St. Chad, 2nd March and the 6 days following.

St. Chad was Bishop of Litchfield A.D 670. He was selected by Theodore for the vast Mercian Diocese, then including Lindsey, Lincs. He built a Monastery on land given him at a place called, by St. Bede, All Baruce, probably Barrow on Humber, but he is not commemorated there. His three churches are at Dunholme, Harpswell and Welbourn…Anglo-Saxon Well-burn meaning a well spring.
The waters of St. Chad's well were said to cure sore eyes. There is a field at Welbourn spoken of as St. Chad's well field, on the way to the station. It had a well now trodden in by cattle that was used for this purpose, and one in Little Lane. There are some old wells. The Beck, deemed curative. Wells now filled in on the Green. They were incorporated with the sewage system about 40 years ago (*written 1933*) and used as a perpetual flush to the pipes. Welbourn has been a healthier village in consequence, with one of the best drainage systems

in the county. The well in the Nookin has a conical stone 'hood' over it and a bucket and chain to draw the water.

St. Chad's farthings or Litchfield pence.
4d. "a dewtie belonging of oulde tyne to the churches. Every house to pay at Easter one glebe penny, one farthing called a wap-farthynge for light of the altar. The Chadd -farthinge to hallow the fonte for christening of children and for oyle and cream to anoyle sycke folks wyth."

The license to hold a Fair was given for some Holy Day, which was by reason of the church observances, a holiday. So Welbourn Fair was granted for St. Chad's Day 2nd March. Caythorpe Fair was granted for Good Friday---of all days! Grantham had several Fairs, Easter Eve and Ascension Day among them. For in those days the church played a much larger part in the life of the people, than it does today. There were no Public Halls and Fairs were held in the churchyards. Booths of boughs were erected by the parishioners, for the travelling showmen, who always came.

What times the churchyard of Welbourn has seen. Booths on either side of the path or propped against the walls. There were strolling players. In one corner a bout with the gloves and down the other side, archery. Practise with the Longbow, which 20 years before had been settled on as THE weapon. A cocoanut shy, sometimes, alas, at live cocks. This was denounced in 1500 as a barbarous and wicked diversion, but which was still practised as late as 1794. Crowds of people in holiday attire, bread stalls, another for quack medicines, acrobats, and inside the church, which of course had no seats, a platform was set up where plays could be given from time to time.

Ye Olde Fayre was oroclaimed on the morning of the first day. The following proclamation is made at Boston, Lincs, at the present day. It bear no date but it refers back to the time when the ordinary man carried a weapon:

“O Yea! O Yea! O Yea!

The Right Worshipful, the Mayor and Burgesses of this Borough of Boston do strictly charge and command all manner of persons resorting to the Fair, which will begin today and continue the four following days, to keep the peace. And that no manner of person or persons make any quarrels or draw any weapon to that intent upon pain of imprisonment, and that no manner of person or persons walk abroad in the night during the time of the said Fair without lawful cause, but resort to their honest booths, houses or lodgings, upon pain of imprisonment and that no manner of person use any unlawful games during the time of the said Fair, and that they be of good and honest behavior as becometh them, as they will answer to the contrary, also that all persons resorting to the said Fair, shall when the same is ended, depart with all their wares, as he or they, offending, will answer to the contrary at their peril. God Save the King.”

Before entering the churchyard the fair people had to take an oath that they would neither lie nor steal. One churchwarden’s account held the following:-

“Recd at the fayer for a standing (stall) in the church porch iiijs.(4s)

In 1285 a statute was passed forbidding fairs to be held in churchyards and slowly the church prevailed against early custom, but the Feast of the saint would be kept, in the parish church. Men and women making their attendance there, as a matter of course, before going on to the fun of the Fair.

In 1272 Elias de Rabayn had also been granted a weekly market on Tuesday. It would seem that the population must

have been larger than it is today. It must be remembered that travelling was difficult and often dangerous and communities were self-sufficient. So except at Fair times there were no peddlers, and strangers were not allowed to roam at large. All such were reported.

There were strict laws about markets. They too were held in churchyards and when ejected, like the fairs, they clung as close as possible to the accustomed place of meeting. So, sometimes today we find the buildings or temporary shops are set hard up against an old churchyard wall. Some, almost on the steps of the church itself! Once a market was established it might not be removed or its day altered. It might not be set up just in any place, as if too near it might injure the trade of one already set up.

An established distance in the 13th century was a little over 6 miles apart. This would allow time for the walk to market in the morning, carrying incredibly heavy baskets. Then, it was time for the sale of wares at midday and the walk home again before dark. This was very important on account of the number of robbers.

March 2nd is the Patronal Festival of St. Chad but Convocation in 1536 ordered that the Dedication Festival be everywhere observed, which is on the first Sunday in October.

The second figure from the left in the East window of the church today is of St. Chad. The Cathedral of Litchfield is in his hand, so his picture is in the church. His niche in the porch is empty.

Peter Peckard 1718-1797

(See also pages 41-42-43)

On the Memorial brass of the Rev. John Peckard and Mary, his wife, in Welbourn chancel are the following words:-

“Parentibus om. Posuit filius P. Peckard S.T.P. Col: Mag: Cant. Praefec: 1790. Ipse brevi Moriturus!”

Translation:-

“The son places this to his parents, Peter Peckard, Sanctus Theologiae Professor. Prefect of Magdalen College Cambridge 1790. My life is short and I am about to die!”

“A Whig Divine, son of the Rev. John Peckard of Welbourn Lincolnshire.” Peter matriculated from Corpus Christie College, Oxford, 2nd July 1734 aged 16. He was a very clever boy and became a brilliant scholar. B.A. 1738. M.A. 1741. Fellow 1744.
He married Martha, elder daughter of Edward Farrar of Huntingdon in about 1752 and settled there for a time.
He was rector of Flatton, where he built a new parsonage house, and vicar of Yaxley, in 1760, both near Peterborough.
In 1766, the year following his father’s death, he became Chaplain to the First Troop Grenadier Guards, and served with it in Germany.
He was Prebendary of Clifton in Lincoln Minster, from 1774 and of Rampton in Southwell Minster 1n 1777 to his death.
Peter held other livings and in 11781 he was appointed to the Mastership of Magdalene College, Canbridge. He was incorporated the following year, Vive Chancellor in 1784, D.D. 1785.

He became Dean of Peterborough in 1792, where he was buried 8th Oct. 1797.

Peter Peckard published many sermons and he drew attention to the evils of the slave traffic. In one sermon in 1795 he stated his belief in 'National Crime' being the cause of national punishments.
He left property to Magdalene College, where he also founded two scholarships. A portrait of him and his wife hang in the College Hall.

(The following is from a note supplied by David Close – see also page 41)

One of Peckard's pamphlets published in 1778 was entitled "Am I not a Man and a Brother?" and this inspired Josiah Wedgwood, the pottery manufacturer, to produce a range of crockery showing the image below. In 1792 Peckard became Dean of Peterborough Cathedral, where his death is recorded in a slab on the floor of the nave. I understand that the City of Peterborough are considering creating a more fitting memorial to him as the father of the Movement for the Abollition of Slavery.

David Close

Peter Peckard, D.D.

With so much interest in the "Black Lives Matter" campaign it may be of interest that one of the earliest and most fervent Englishmen promoting the Abolition of Slavery was the son of a former Rector of Welbourn. This was Peter Peckard, whose portrait in Magdalen College, Cambridge, where he was Master from 1781, is shown above.

His father John Peckard was for 45 years Rector until his death in 1765, and Peter erected a memorial to both his parents which still hangs in the Chancel of St Chad's Church, Welbourn, written in Latin.

Peter was born in 1718 and lived to the age of 79. He left Welbourn aged 16 to be educated at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, where he gained a M.A, degree before becoming ordained, and initially served as an army chaplain with the Grenadier Guards. He later held various livings in the Peterborough area and in 1781 was appointed Master of Magdalen College Cambridge.

In the same year, 1781, a shocking incident occurred at sea when the master of the slave trading vessel "Zong" threw 131 sick African slaves overboard in order to claim their insurance value! Peter Peckard preached a number of sermons against the slave trade, some of which were published as tracts and pamphlets. He is regarded as the intellectual father of the movement for the abolition of slavery.

Peckard became Vice Chancellor of the University and he set an essay competition which is still current annually to this day, in his name, posing the question "Is it lawful to make slaves of others against their will?" The first winner was an undergraduate Thomas Clarkson, who became thereafter a celebrated abolitionist and dedicated his whole life to the cause. He later recruited William Wilberforce to lead the battle in Parliament, culminating in the Slavery Abolition Act 1833.

Sir William Robertson 1860-1933

Sir William Robertson Bart. of Welbourn, co, Lincoln, G.C.B. G.C.M.C. K.V.O. G.C.V.O. D.S.O. D.C.L. Oxford LL. D. Cambridge. The Soldier, Great Man, added to the Saint, the Priest and the layman.

He climbed the ladder of fame from the village school of his native place, to the highest rank in the British Army. The motto beneath his coat of arms is 'Fight the good Fight.' And right well he lived up to it.

William Robert Robertson, 1st Baronet, creation 1919. He was the eldest son of the late Thomas Charles Robertson and Ann Dexter, his wife. Born Jan.29th 1860 at Welbourn, Lincs. He married in 1894, Mildred Adelaid, daughter of the late Lieut. Gen. T.C. Palin, Indian Army. Their son, Brian Hubert, born 22 July 1896, D.S.O. M.C. Brevet Major 1919, succeeded to the title in 1933. Brian married in 1926, the daughter of J.B. Macindoe, Esq and their daughter Christine Veronica Helen was born in 1927, and their son and heir, William Ronald, 8th Dec. 1930.

Sir William had two daughters, Rosamund Mildred, born 1901 and Helen Millicent born 1905. The elder married in 1922 Lt. Com. Walter Lockett Agnew, R.N. retired and they have a daughter Rosanna.

Sir William's father was a tailor and kept the old Post Office at Welbourn. Several of his relatives live in the neighbourhood.

Sir William dedicated his autobiography, 'From Private to Field Marshal.' "To the memory of my mother to whose

affectionate and inspiring teachings in early life is attributed such merit, if any, as may attach to my career."
He was a very studious boy and keen to learn all he could. The Governess at the rectory taught him French, and it was owing to his aptitude for languages, among other qualities, that he became Commandant of the Staff College in 1910.
In 1872 he was a monitor in Welbourn Day School. In 1877 he enlisted as a Private and in 1920 William became a Field Marshall. Of all that came between, much has already been published.

Hundreds of people came from many miles around when he returned to Welbourn on 2nd May 1920. Sir William Robertson, came to unveil the Memorial Cross erected to the memory of the eleven men who gave their lives in the Great War.
The church was seated for 450, but 753 were accommodated, while hundreds had to wait in the churchyard. The Bishop of the Diocese spoke at the service in church and Sir William spoke from the steps of the Cross. This was beside the church door through which he had so often entered in his youth. His voice rang out over the crowds that thronged around him.
He spoke to some, nay, many who had known him personally. Most knew his story and all knew him as a great soldier.
A deeply religious man, when he joined with others at another service, and afterwards crossed the grass to his parent's grave, he was amongst his own people. He did not hesitate to shake rough hands of the men who had been at school with him. One man, a few years older than he was, accosted him with "eh! Sir William, dost mind when I throw'd thee in the Beck?"

He shook hands with all relatives of the fallen on that day in May, beginning with the rector in his surplice. *(The Rev Puckridge who lost his only son Cyril.)*

Sir William passed to his rest 12th Feb. 1933. A Memorial Service was held in Westminster Abbey on Feb. 16th the day of the funeral. Another was held at Welbourn on the following Sunday afternoon. The internment took place at Brookwood Cemetery.

A fund was opened to raise a Memorial to him and a tablet was placed on the N. wall inside Welbourn church. Another one is outside the Soldier's Chapel in the transept of Lincoln Cathedral. It was erected on Wed. 15th August 1934. Both were unveiled by Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone and the Earl of Athlone. Sir Brian and Lady Robertson, the Dowager Lady Robertson and Miss Robertson were present, as well as the three sisters of the late Field Marshall. Very representative congregations assembled in both places. It was a beautiful service with its ecclesiastical and military dignity….a fitting tribute to a great Christian soldier.

Sacred to the Memory of Field Marshall Sir William Robert Robertson, Baronet, G.C.B. G.C.M.C. G.C.V.O. D.S.O. D.C.L. Oxon, LL.D. Cantab. Born in this parish 29th Jan 1860. Died 12th February 1933. This tablet, representing a Portion of a Memorial Fund, raised by Lincolnshire men and old comrades and friends in all parts of the British Empire, is here placed to perpetuate the remembrance of a great soldier who by his own indomitable energy, resource, skill and judgment accomplished the distinction of rising from a trooper in the 16th Lancers to the rank of Field Marshall. His varied and distinguished services include the North West frontier of India 1895, South Africa 1899-1900, Commandant of the Staff College 1910-1913, in the Great War Quarter-Master-General and Chief of General Staff 1915-1918, also General Officer Commanding in Chief of the Army of the

Rhine 1919-1920. In all things to all men a high example. Requiescat in Pace.

The fund includes a sum to be devoted to starting young men of Welbourn out in life.

Lady Robertson has lately presented a beautiful banner to the Welbourn, Robertson, Branch of the British legion.

(Later history of the family. Brian Hubert, born 1896-1974 succeeded to the title of 2nd Baronet on the death of his father in 1933. He was created 1st Baron Robertson of Oakridge in 1961. His son, William Ronald Robertson, born 1930 became 2nd Baron of Oakridge on the death of his father. William died in 2009 and was succeeded by his son, William Brian Elsworthy, born 1976 as 3rd Baron.

On October 17th 1961 The Sir William Robertson Secondary School (Acedemy) opened on the outskirts of Welbourn. It was opened by The Right Honorable Lord Robertson of Oakridge, the son of Sir William. It is a co-educational school for around 890 pupils of ages 11-18. The four 'Houses' are named after great experiences in their founder's life. Simla, Dragoon, Chitral, and Lancer.)

Appendix

1. The Manor of Welbourn
The Descent

Ante 1066. Earl Godwin. Domesday Book

Cir. 1086. Robert Malet. Domesday Book
William Malet.

1115. Alan de Lincoln.
Hugh de Bayeux.

1212. Duke of Louvaine.

1248. John de Bayeux.

1272. Elias de Rabayn.

1288. Elias de Rabayn and Maud, his wife. 1305.

1305. Isabella de Beaumont, wife of John de Vesey.

1335. Henry de Beaumont (her brother)

1342. Henry de Beaumont and Eleanor dau. of Henry Earl of Lancaster.

1367. Eleanor, widow of John de Beaumont, Countess of Arundel.

1396. John de Beaumont and Catherine.

1426. Catherine widow of John de Beaumont.

1462. William de Beaumont, Lord Bardolf.

1467. Sir William Hastings.

1484. Catherine widow of Sir William Hastings

1514. Thomas Lord Howard, Admiral of England

1554. Thomas 4th Duke of Norfolk. d.1572.

1573. Dix and Cantrell (100yrs) Crown reserve.

1598. Cantrell and Holland crown reserve to 1600

1600. Trustees for Thomas Howard.

1646. Henry Frederick Howard 3rd, Arundel.

1652. Thomas Howard 4th Earl.

1652. Thomas West of Shelfanger co. Norfolk.

1677. Thomas Howard 5th Duke.

1676-1767 (see Nocton Estate)

1781. Hon. George Hobart.

1790. George Hobart, 3rd Earl of Buckinghamshire, 1793.

1842. Eleanor Agnes Dowager Countess of Buckinghamshire.

1872. Lord Ripon sold the Welbourn Estate.

The Manor House

The advowson of the church of Welbourn was held originally with the Manor, but about 1086 became divorced.

They were together again in 1770, when the Hon, George Hobart, the Lord of the Manor held the advowson. But the Manor House had been sold in 1692, or before that date.

In 1583, Charles Hussey, Esquire, was the patron of Welbourn. He lived at Caythorpe.

In 1593-4, when the Manor had reverted to the Crown, Chief Baron Popham, patron, wrote concerning the Manor of Welbourn. It is said he lived there.

In 1616 and 1641, Sir Francis Popham. His son, patron.

In 1652, the Manor of Welbourn passed out of the hands of the Duke of Norfolk.

In 1672, Sir W. Ellis, knight, patron 6 years later, lived ‘in Welbourne.’

In 1680 he died and his son, Sir W. Ellys, Bart, became patron. He lived at Nocton. In 1692 the Manor House was sold, “all that capital messuage or mansion house.” etc. by Robert Riley of Welbourn, gent.

It had formerly been in the occupation of Edmund Thorold, clerk, B.D. Camb, Rector of Boothby 1663, born 1610. His mother was the daughter of Edward Ellis of Chesterton, Cambs.

Mr. John Thorold and his family had lived somewhere in Welbourn since before 1612.

Robert Riley Esq, aforesaid, sold it to Mr. Edward Hussey, Bart, for £380. He lived in Welbourn and was buried 1724 at Caythorpe.
Mr. Baron Brittain and his 2nd wife, Avery lived somewhere in Welbourn, probably the Manor House, 1725-1726. She was buried 1740 in Welbourn.

1814. Major Frances Brown owned the house. He died 1850. His father, Mr. George Brown was churchwarden. He died 1791.

1855-1860. Joseph Rinder Esq. was there but the Manor House was sold together with the advowson at the sale of Lord Ripon's Estate in Welbourn.

1872. A.A. Smith, Esq, became the owner. Mr. W.T. Lamb, the churchwarden "managed it for him. Mr. Smith gave Mr. Lamb the forge for his services."

(Welbourn Forge dates back to 1864 where it served the needs of the local farmers and tradespeople. For instance the Welbourn Co-Op had 6 draught horses while the Manor kept 12 hunters in their stables. Iron rims for the wheels of carts, waggons and barrows plus the repairing of agricultural equipment kept the blacksmith busy. He could turn his hand to make anything from iron. Hinges, wrought iron gates, tools and locks. Ted Wilkinson, born in 1895 was apprenticed to the then blacksmith, Mr. Fountain Wells. He worked at the forge until the 1960's. On the day he retired he just shut the door, leaving a time warp of tools, bellows, unused iron bars, all in place. In 1987 the North Kesteven

District Council, bought the forge and in 2000, with the help of volunteers, the fires were lit again for a Public Open Day. It has subsequently been open to the public on the first Saturday of the month. It is a wonderful look back into the life of a skilled and professional blacksmith, a man at the heart of the community.)

1891-1898, Newcomb Morley, Esq owned the Manor and lived there.
1913, Claud Norton Esq, bought it.
1914, Colonel Clayton Swan.
1920 Mrs. Pritchard.
And then James Dawson, Esq, bought it.

Survey of the Barony of Bayeux

The Manor House of 1288 was a big place and well tenanted. It was styled "one capital (chief) messuage" not 100 years later. It comprised:-
One Hall with two chambers, one kitchen with brewhouse and ? one grange. One granary, one stable, one ox-house, one cowhouse, and one sheepfold. It had a large garden with fruit and herbage worth so much, which was shared by trees. The walled courtyard had trees and ?? in it. There was one little tower on the wall. There was a certain Dyke in this court, which assured them fresh water and lower down would turn the water wheel.
There was much land and one rent was paid in 1lb pepper and one pair gilt spurs. Some wage was paid in 2 loaves and 2 herrings etc. The Beck and the moat by Bell Green tree, and the Wash Dyke Pool have seen these days. NOTE. The large farmhouse abutting on the present co-operative stores on the East was known as The Grange in olden days.

In August 1888, it was sold to General (Captain) Reeves of Leadenham House, by the Dean and Chapter of Lincoln. Part of John de Welbourn's gift.

Isabel de Beaumont, wife of John de Vasey, held the Manor of Wellebourne for her life. It was called le Northall and le Southall at her death in 1334. Each Manor had one mill and a good garden. Le Southall had a dovecote and a common bakehouse. This common bakehouse lasted for generations. In October 1868 the schoolmaster wrote in his log, "many children left at 11.45 to carry bread to the bakehouse. Propose closing school at 11.50. So less play."
There was an ancient woman who lived on the Green (Southall, Sapperton) and later it was old Mr. Holman, who baked bread for the public. There was a brick oven in a kitchen beyond Mrs. Hammond's thatched house with a round hole up in the wall. People, who remember, say that the old man or his daughter used to blow a horn through this hole, to let people know that the oven was hot! The children took the bread at noon ad fetched it after leaving school at 5 o'clock. Sometimes on a cold evening small childen would put a loaf down on the 'slabs' and sit on it. Nice and warm!
John de Welbourn probably owned this Manor. It was styled Sapperton, and it was there that the land which he gave for his chantry in 1363, lay. The Lady of the Manor in 1342 and 1367 was Eleanor, the daughter of Henry, Duke of Lancaster, the patron of John de Welbourn.
A description of the house built in the 14th century with 15th and 16th century additions is described as H plan, with a central Hall and cross wings. It is constructed of limestone rubble with a plain tile roof. It is on the site of the original Southalle Manor.

The Manor House today (1933) is owned by James Dawson, Esq. It is a beautiful place. The low stone archway in the hall

and the others, similar, built into the wall in line with it are "domestic architecture of the 13th century." (Canon Foster)

(Owners following Mr. Dawson were Mr. and Mrs. Bemrose, Mr. and Mrs. Horace Burgess and finally Mrs. Briggs. In the early 1950's the property was sold and became a Residential Care Home. In 1961, Manor Close was built. 21 bungalows, all with small private gardens, built in the grounds and comprise 1 bedroom and are mobility and wheelchair friendly. They are referred to as 'Age Exclusive Housing.' North Kesteven District Council now manages the whole estate.)

11. The Castle of Welbourn

Were there two buildings? It seems as if it must have been so. The Mounds near the church—Castle Hill, and the Moat and

Moat Lane going east, past the Rectory are names that have lived.
About 1158 Hugh de Bayeux, Lord of the Manor of Wellebourne, granted to Robert Rabax, certain lands on condition “that he would make for him one porch in the wall of the Castle of Wellebourne.” A porch means, “undertaking to build some 18 feet of castle wall.”(according to Professor Stanton.)
In 1300, “Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, had the honour of Eye by hereditary succession, after the death of his father. He had it of the gift of King Henry, his brother. Wellebourne, of the said honour 100s, rent from free tenants who hold 5 carucates of land, held by William de Godested, rendering 6s 8d. for the guard of the castle. His tenants used to do one appearance (yearly) at the bridge of Skyand at the wapentake of King Henry, whiles the honour was in his hand. Afterwards the tenants make an attendance and present as above, at his court at Segbrock…..and so they did in the time of Earl Edmund. Lady Isabel de Vesay holds a Manor for life (as parcel of the Barony of Bayeux.) and the tenants make the same attendance as those of William Godested. (this proves the existence of the castle and the manor.) The villeins contributed with them to the common fines. After her death the Manor reverts to the King or his heirs.”
In 1340 the above (?) William del Chastel of Welburn, received pardon for all homicides, felonies etc against the peace of Ed.11 or the present King and any consequent outlawries.

In August 1346 Thomas, son of Peter de Welburn and John de Castelle (of the castle) of Welburn, and others, were cited to make inquisition upon oath of the servings and fees of various people, which pertained to the castle, town, manor and honour of Eye.

In 1604 a grant was made to the Earl of Nottingham, Charles Howard, Lord High Admiral, of the Castle of Welburne.

1st Sept. 1740 Stukeley says, "visiting the Duke of Ancaster at Naneby (Navenby) I observed the very old castle at Welburn, was one made on the frontier here, by the Mercian kings, to oppose that of the Northumbrian monarch at Somerton." Footnote to this. "Just outside the rectory grounds across the road, are two great earthworks, that to the N. is Roman, the more southern medieval. Flint arrow-heads, celts and horse shoes have been found outside the former. The southern work is the site of a fortified mansion, said to have belonged to Sir John Popham.

In 1790 Captain John Cragg of Threckingham wrote, "at Welbourn hath been a castle, the moat and mounds of which are to be seen near the church, in a close called Castle Garth, containing about 4 acres, near which is a remarkably fine spring."

Mr. J.J. Burtt's sister, Margaret, born 1853, has an ancient large key, which was unearthed near Castle Hill, when they were children. It is called 'the key of the castle.'

(The castle was probably built of wood during the reign of King Stephen, 1134-54, when several castles were hastily erected because of civil war with Queen Mathilde. Stone defenses were not ordered until later. The monument is a ring work and not a motte and bailey.
Shards of 10th-12th century Stamford ware were discovered during trial trenching, suggesting that activity in the area predated initial construction and habitation. Two phases of ramparts were identified relating to a stone wall or 'porch' as mentioned earlier. In the 13th-14th centuries, finds indicate domestic assemblage and iron workings. Demolition

rubble suggests that the castle was abandonned in mid 1300's with the stone probably being used to build the church of St. Chad. Within the ringwork there appears to have been a hall, two chambers, a kitchen and brewhouse, ox house, cowshed and sheepfold. A circular feature on the west side of the ring, 15 meters in diameter, indicates a tower. The encircling moat has at times almost disappeared but more recently has been cleared of trees and undergrowth, for water to flow naturally through it.
The site was purchased by Welbourn Parish Council, with the help of a grant in 1998. It is now maintained as a scheduled monument, with protected status, no. 1020436)

The world of Miss Puckridge was changing significantly even as she wrote this paper. The change clearly accelorated following the outbreak of the Second World War and has continued apace since then. This is perhaps illustrated by the following recollection of one aspect of life in

Welbourn during the 1980's and onwards.

Miss Musson had run the Post Office and Tobacconist/Sweet Shop for many years. In 1983 newcomers from Botswana arrived. Dot and Alan Sayer! They added on a small extension to house a hardware store. They also took on the State Lottery as none of the surrounding village stores were interested. Then in 1989 they bought Crosby's Groceries and built on a large extension, which included a hairdresser shop. This they took over from one running in Caythorpe.

Very sadly Alan died quite suddenly in 1990 but the village had taken Dot to its heart and supported her for the next 14 years. She then sold out to David and Alison Lowe who continued to make the Village Store the heart of Welbourn Village. 10 years later it was sold again to Benny and Priya, a Sri Lankan couple who continued the tradition of friendliness and goodwill towards the villagers. The hairdressing salon, originally run by Sally Gerity, Maggie Rickard and Jenny Ashbolt served the local population and both of the Residential Care Homes. Jenny remained as the expert, friendly stylist right into the 2020's.

Further information concerning village life can be found in back copies of the magazine "Two Villages", written and compiled for many years by Marian and Bill Goodhand.

Welbourn in the 1940's compiled by David Close

As a pre-WW2 baby I thought it might be useful to record my earliest impressions of the village I grew up in. I fully accept that my early memories may be fanciful, or even plain wrong!

I was born at Barn Cottage, which formed part of my Grandfather Thompson Close's larger property, The Old House, which he acquired in 1919. My parents Hugh and Esme and my sister Rosemary lived in Barn Cottage and during the war my mother had "paying guests" who were RAF officers and their families, who came and went on a regular basis, so I got to know them quite well as they shared our house. My Grandparents continued to live at The Old House, where they employed a cook (Elsie) and a housemaid (Olive). They also had the weekly washing done by Mrs Booth, who lived with her 1-legged husband, a WW1 casualty, in the cottage at the west end of the row across The Green. Mrs Booth was very poor and liked to show me her badly scarred arm, which she said was a result of blood poisoning. The William Robertson Cottages had no running water, so had to draw water from a standpipe at that end of The Green. Our weekly wash was done with much labour in our outside wash-house, where a copper boiler heated the water, and a large mangle and washboard were used before the sheets and other laundry were hung out across the paved yard by the back door, separated by a wall from the front door and garden (actually all on the same side of The Old House, as now).

Barn Cottage had its own garden, including a grass tennis court, at the rear, and was joined to the main house by a gate at the back, a doorway through "the hovel", and via the summerhouse whose garden opened on to its driveway.

Our immediate neighbours were Mr and Mrs Horace Burgess at Welbourn Manor, which was still a large country house in substantial grounds, long before Kesteven County Council acquired it in 1952, and built the large extension to make it an Old People's Home, plus the bungalows within its garden. My grandmother Maud was very friendly with Mrs Burgess, and I remember being fascinated to be told, that they had seen the resident ghost, a cowled figure who walked in the garden on summer evenings. The main thing I remember about Horace Burgess was that he drove a splendid Rolls Royce shooting brake to visit his farms. I used to play with their grandson Peter-John Dearden who lived with his beautiful mother at the Manor, his father being an RAF fighter pilot. He flew low over the Manor once, doing a victory roll, but sadly was later killed in action.

The next house to us on our side of Beck Street was the brick cottage where the Masons now live. It was the home of Mr & Mrs Donald Curley and their two daughters, Brenda and Mavis. Mr Curley was the manager of the Co-operative store, which was then a thriving business, and he presided in a raised cubicle within the shop. He was a JP and highly respected gentleman. Between their cottage and the back of The Old House was a charming meadow containing flowering cherry trees and daffodils, and belonged to The Manor, where they kept a Jersey cow for the home dairy. Their dairyman came regularly to tend to the milking. A public footpath crossed this paddock diagonally from the Curleys' cottage to the hedge then at the back of the field near our hedge, but when Mr Miksza built the 3 bungalows in the field in the 1960's the footpath was diverted to run alongside our northern boundary.

Our neighbours in Burtts cottages on The Green to the south

side were, in the nearest cottage, the council road-man, a Mr Avison I think, who had a very attractive daughter, Dawn. She was probably 10 years my senior, but I developed early on an eye for female beauty! Next to them was the Clark family, Alan Clark's parents, grandparents and Great grandparents. Fred Clark operated the village taxi and mended bicycles and other machinery in his workshop at the rear. Mrs Clark's parents also lived there and I remember the wonderful rural Lincolnshire dialect spoken by them, the sort you don't hear nowadays. Fred's daughter Jean, also more than 10 years older than me, helped sometimes "babysitting" and I was fond of her. Her brother was called Ernie.

Next along The Green was The White Cottage where an elderly couple, Mr & Mrs Rossington, lived. I liked visiting them and nicknamed them Mr & Mrs Toetoes because Mr Rossington had his foot in a cast at one time, revealing his toes! I am told that I suffered a severe trauma when waiting for the Grantham bus, by getting my head stuck in their gate!

Further along on the corner at Greystone Cottage lived Miss Mary Chatterton, a rather scary spinster. Her brothers Bill, Bob and Gilbert also lived at Welbourn, and the parents lived at Welbourn Hall. At the rear of Greystone Cottage was a barn used for milking cows. I had a lovely nursemaid when I was small called Patty, who was a Land Girl during the war, and I remember going to watch her milking in Mary Chatterton's cowshed.

On the opposite corner stood the pair of stone cottages now undergoing substantial renovation. The eastern cottage was the home of 2 sisters, Bertha and Winifred Picker, both schoolteachers. Next to them lived the Cooling family. They had a daughter who got married at St Chad's during the war and my grandmother played the organ at the wedding. She

returned to tell us of a most embarrassing accident which occurred as the happy couple posed in the church porch for photographs, when the bride's drawers fell about her ankles! As the saying went, she should have used stronger elastic!

Opposite on the Green, where the Towners now live, was a cottage inhabited by Mrs Codd, who had a parcel office for deliveries by bus at the bus stop on that corner. Going further along The Green towards Dycote Lane was the old wooden Village Hall on the right before the row of brick cottages. Here the Womens Institute met, my mother being its long-term secretary. I recall the annual WI Christmas party and dance at which I had to partner mature village matrons, who also danced with each other "bust to bust". Two of the stalwarts were Elsie Norton and Gertie Howard, who also both worked at Sowters Bakery, further down The Green. The bakery occupied a yard, which stretched back from where the Reeders now live, and a Mr Les Kirk was the owner. He drove a flash pre-war Jaguar, with a maroon paint finish, which had faded horribly. I don't think I ever ate any product of Sowters as my mother was a good pastry cook.

Behind Long Row cottage, lived in by Mr & Mrs Fisher who ran The Joiners Arms, was the cottage, still there, where Mrs Wilberforce lived with her son Ivan. She was a schoolteacher whose husband was away in the war, and who was one of Welbourn's three casualties. Ivan ("the Terrible") was an occasional playmate, but had a bad reputation. Soon after the war the cottage suffered a fire and I remember going to stand with a crowd watching it burn, and hearing the roof tiles popping.

Opposite, on the corner of Holmes' yard was the cottage where Mr and Mrs Bailey lived, he being the village cobbler. He worked by a window looking back up The Green on the

corner of their cottage, and I used to have to tap on his window when taking shoes to be mended. He walked with a bad limp; Mrs Elsie Bailey was a tiny, jolly lady.

Mr & Mrs Laurie Holmes lived and ran their poultry business off Holmes' yard where their son Bob and Patsy now live. Bob's sister Monica was an attractive teenager.

The houses on Dycote Lane ended at Green Farm, which the Andrews still occupy.

Returning along The Green I used to visit a friend of my Granny, a Miss Luard who lived at Field House, accessed along the footpath from the bend in The Green. Miss Jessie Luard was old and very blind, but had a fascinating collection of butterflies, moths and beetles pinned on boards. She also had a nephew named d'Albiac Luard who was an actor and friend of my grandparents. He was a flamboyant stagey character who dressed the part.

Welbourn Hall, now a nursing home, was where old Mr and Mrs Robert Chatterton lived. It had substantial grounds and outbuildings. They were friends of my grandparents but I found them rather scary if I was ever sent round to them on an errand. One of their three sons was William, who lived at Hunt House with Thelma, his wife, and two daughters Diana and Valerie. They were friends of my parents, and Diana was a year or so younger than me; she had long dark hair and deep-set dark eyes, like her father's. We got on well.

Going further along Beck Street, the Crosby family lived and farmed. The children were Alan, Phyllis (now Garner), Maureen (now Allen) and Clive. The boys sometimes played football in the street, and I damaged my knee when my cycle went over a half brick used as a goal post, which I landed on – I struggled home with my gumboot filling with blood and I still bear the scar!

Welland House, now the home of Margaret Overton, was used by the army during the war as offices staffed by the ATS, or women's service. We were shocked because the lights seemed to be on all day and all night, wasting electricity!

Further along, where there are now council bungalows up to Cow Lane, there were then some old thatched cottages, one of which was occupied by Mrs Shepherd, who was our cleaning lady, so I knew her well. She had a son, Cyril, and a daughter June (later Toynbee) who sometimes came and played with my sister Rosemary. Going up Cow Lane was a tall 3-storey row of cottages, long-since demolished along with those where Mrs Shepherd lived.

Over the crossroads on the left was Arthur and Dot Musson's house and carpenter's workshop, where now the Brealey family live. Opposite the Post Office was another carpenter's establishment, a Mr Rollinson. His was a handsome house, I recall, but it was demolished in the 1950's when it was sold with the land opposite the Post Office to builders from Lincoln, who have left it unbuilt upon ever since.

The Post Office was very different, and much smaller than the present excellent village shop. Annie Musson was the postmistress behind the high counter. As far as I can recall she only sold a range of sweets in tall jars at the back of the shop. I once guiltily stole a sweet off the counter when visiting with my mother, and I feel sure that Miss Musson knew!

I should also mention another important shop at the bottom of Little Lane on the right, known as Crosbys. It was also a bakery, with the shop across the yard, and the bakery on the corner. Our family used this shop more than any other in the village.

Opposite is the large, tall house called Greengates, occupied by two elderly spinsters called the Miss Needs. They had a dog called "Patch" which was shouted at hoarsely by both the sisters.

On the south side of the tall house is a separate property with a large garden, which was occupied by an RAF family called Edwards. I played with their son who taught me bad words, which shocked my mother, who admonished me never to utter them again!

Along the High Street was the White Horse Inn going north, and the Joiners Arms going south, both in regular use, but not by me, of course.

On Sundays we used to go to church, to St Chad's at the north end of Welbourn.The Rector was Mr McClure, who I believe had suffered shell-shock in World War 1. I remember little of his sermons, or of him generally. He lived with his wife in the red brick rectory off Bell Tree Green, now occupied by the Archdeacon. Opposite at Welbourn Place lived a Mr Horace Bainton, a widower, who was a friend of my grandparents. He was rather deaf. Once when visiting my grandparents at Barn Cottage one evening during the blackout, he took a wrong turn when exiting the property and found himself in the outbuilding we called 'the hovel'. He crashed about in the dark and hurt himself.

As children we quite often played with the younger members of the Burtt family at North End. Gillian was my age, followed by the twins Jamie and Nicky, and lastly Patricia. We went to school on the bus to Fulbeck...to a Mrs Wallhead. She was a kind, but strict, wonderful teacher.

My father Hugh was serving abroad in the army. I remember him leaving home, in 1941 I think, and how sad my mother was. His letters from East Africa were eagerly awaited. During the war years that followed, my mother had the previously mentioned "PG's" staying with us. Mainly RAF officers' families stationed locally. There were so many airfields nearby, including at Fulbeck, Wellingore, Coleby, and of course Cranwell and Waddington. As a small boy I was fascinated by the stories I heard of the exploits

and adventures of the fathers of these families, who had to come home after air raids and fighter sorties. It must have been very hard for them to adjust to being at war one minute, and home with their wives and children the next.

I have very strong memories of watching and hearing the roar of squadrons of bombers, Lancasters and Wellingtons, flying over Welbourn as they set off on raids over Europe. Welbourn largely escaped from enemy action, but I do remember one bomb being dropped near us somewhere on top of the hill. My mother swept me up from my bath in a towel and we rushed to hide under the stairs for safety.

When my father returned from the war in 1945 we stayed at Barn Cottage during the lean years of rationing and shortages. My grandparents remained at The Old House, but could no longer afford to keep the cook and housemaid they had previously employed. I went away to boarding School aged 9 in 1947, as did my sister. The steam trains were still running from Lincoln to Grantham, and I would catch the train at Leadenham station at the start of my journey down to Sussex.

Entrance to St. Chad's Welbourn

Welbourn Church. St. Chad's. P. 64

Porch Gates P.74

Porch Grafitti P. 75

Porch Grafitti of a ship. P.75

Porch Grafitti P. 75

North side clerestory windows P.87

Bell Tower and Sacristan Door P.64

Piscena P.67

The Font P. 43

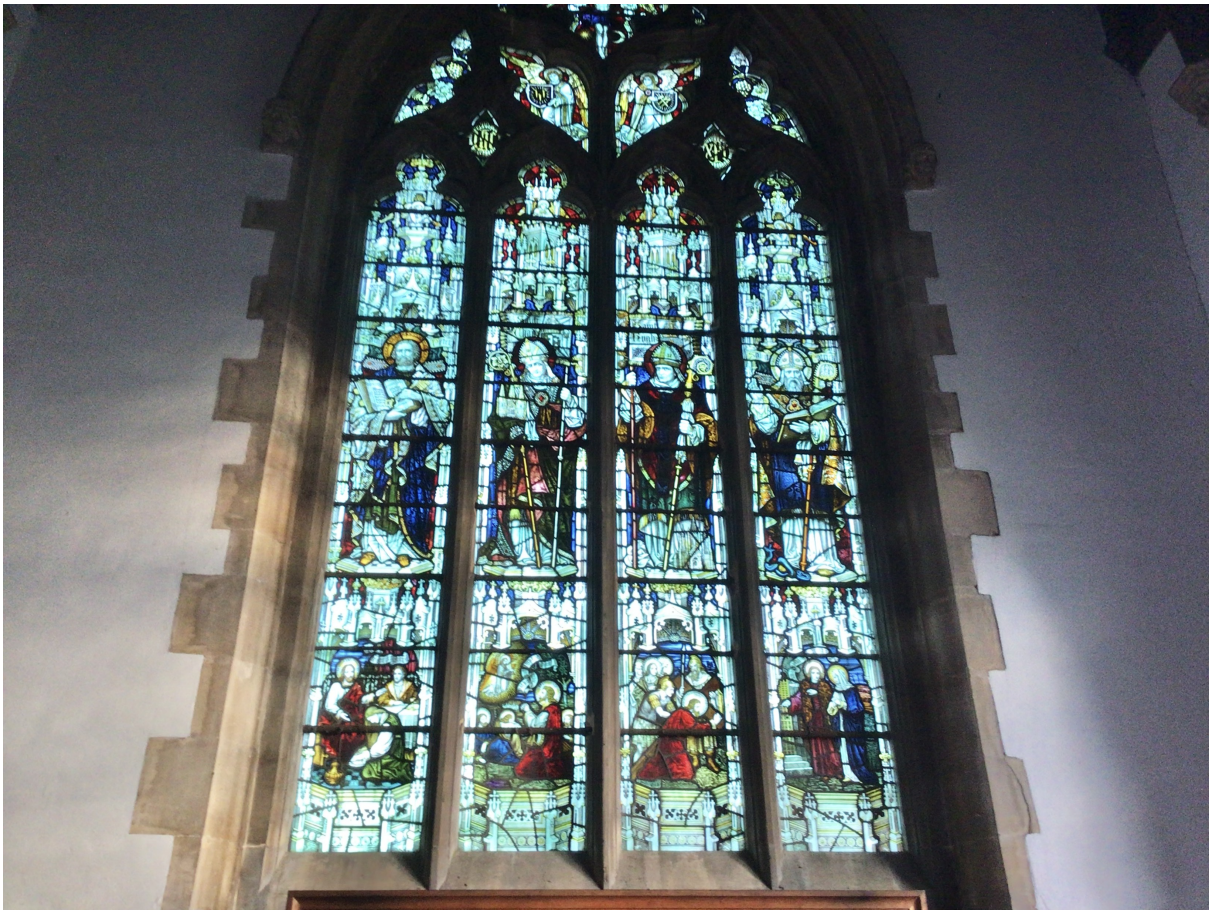
Wooden Door Bolt P. 76

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF
FIELD MARSHAL
SIR WILLIAM ROBERT ROBERTSON
BARONET G.C.B. G.C.M.G. G.C.V.O. D.S.O.
D.C.L. OXON. LL.D. CANTAB.
BORN IN THIS PARISH 29TH JANUARY 1860
DIED 12TH FEBRUARY 1933
This Tablet, representing a portion of a Memorial Fund raised by Lincolnshire men and Old comrades and friends in all parts of the British Empire, is here placed to perpetuate the remembrance of a great Soldier who by his own indomitable energy, resource, skill and judgment accomplished the distinction of rising from a Trooper in the 16th Lancers to the rank of Field Marshal.
His varied and distinguished services included the North West Frontier of India 1895: South Africa 1899-1900: Commandant of the Staff College 1910-1913: In the Great War Quarter Master General and Chief of the General Staff 1914-1915 and Chief of the Imperial General Staff 1915-1918, also General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Army of the Rhine 1919-1920.
In all things to all men a high example.
REQUIESCAT IN PACE

Memorial to Sir William Robertson P. 214

War Memorials P.146

Organ. P. 100



East Window P. 87

Altar following restoration 1884

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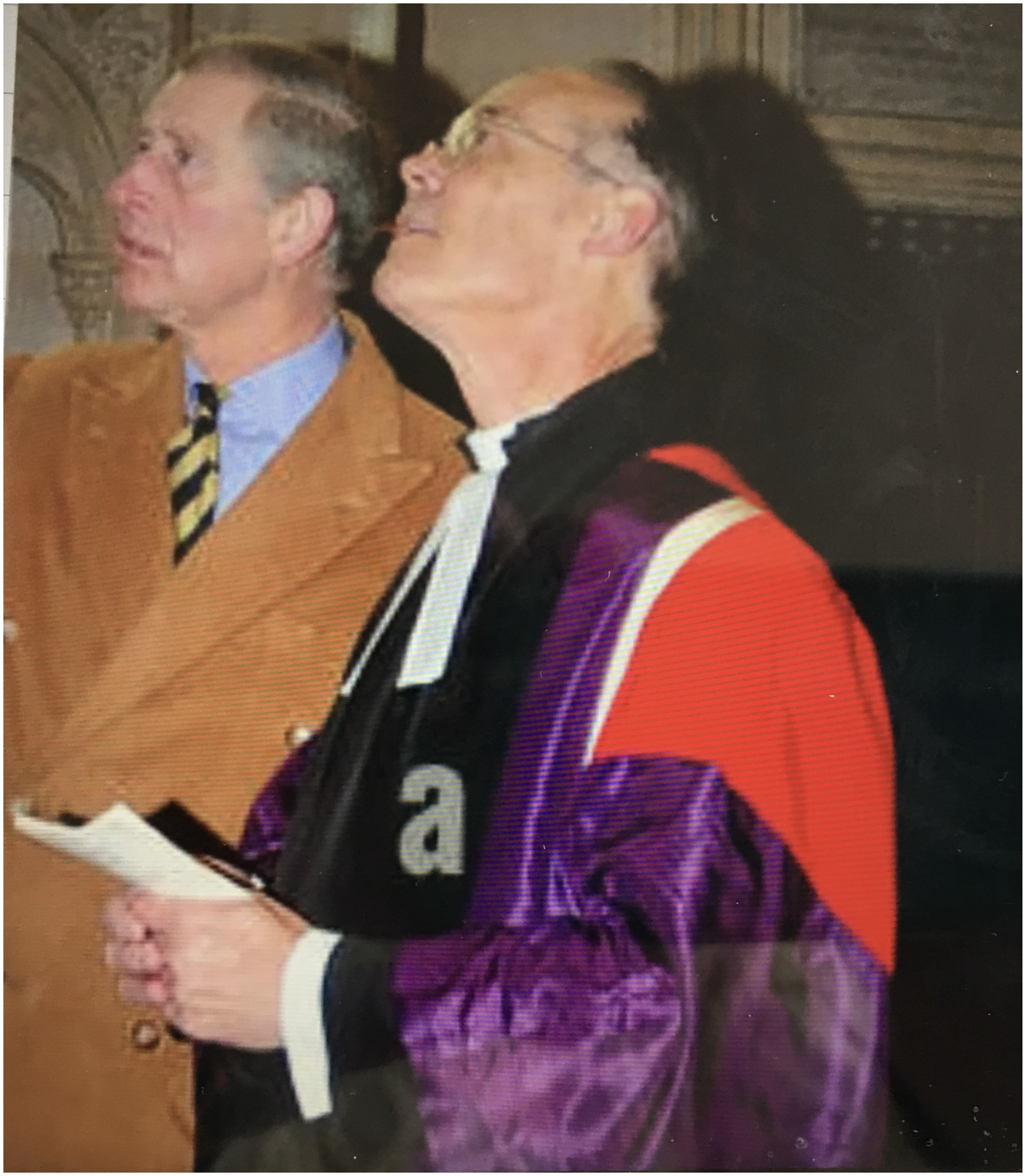
Memorial Cross P. 146



Rev Alan Megahey with the Prince of Wales P.62

Cyril Puckridge P. 146

Dedicaton of the Replacement Bells P. 110

L-R. Derek Overton, Churchwarden, Rev. Robert Woodfield, The Bishop of Lincoln, Fran and Reg Brealey, Rural Dean the Rev Robin Clark, Hugh Close, Churchwarden.

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